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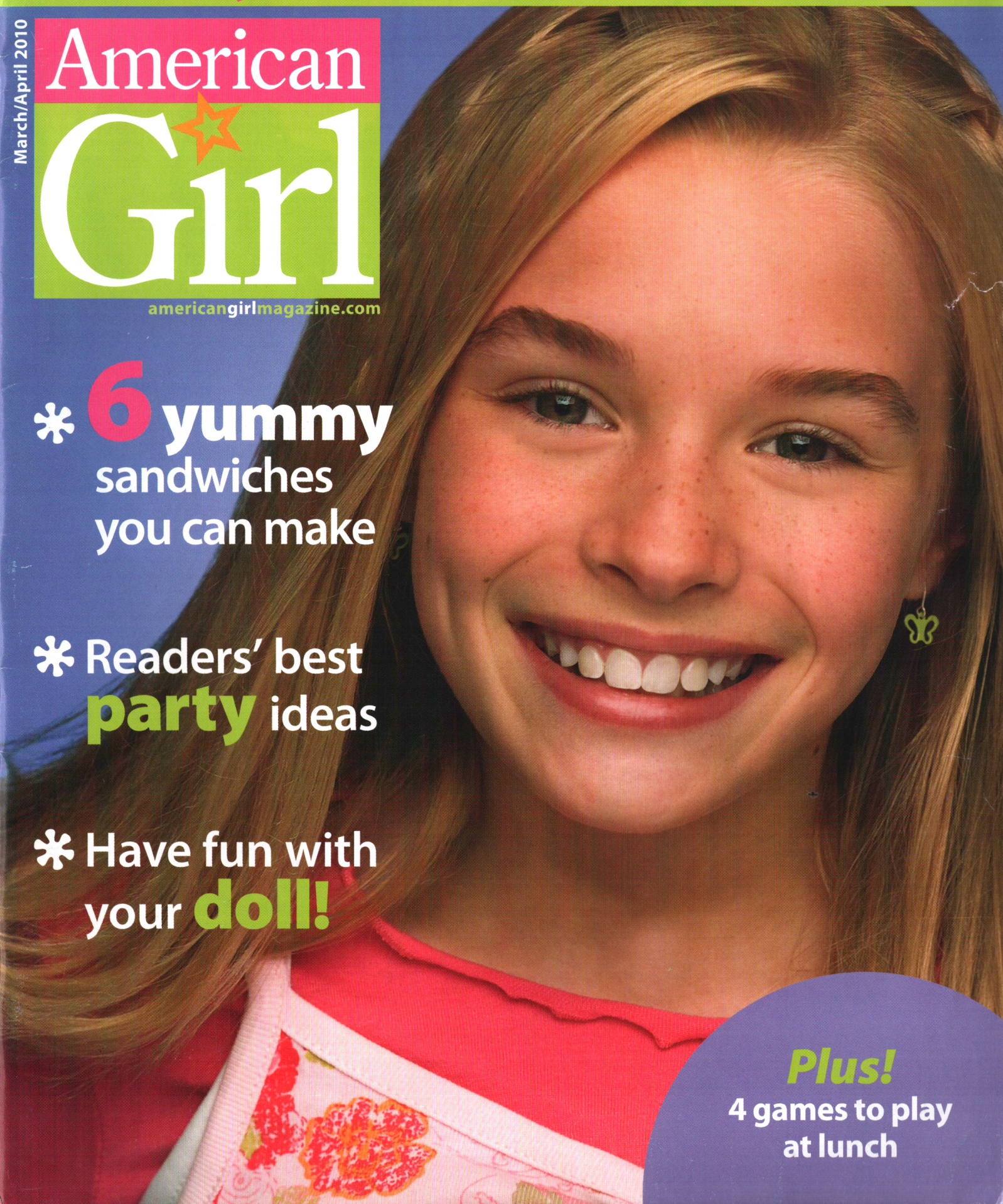
March/April 2010

American Girl

americangirlmagazine.com



* 6 yummy sandwiches you can make
* Readers' best party ideas
* Have fun with your doll!

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4 games to play at lunch

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Volume 18, Number 2

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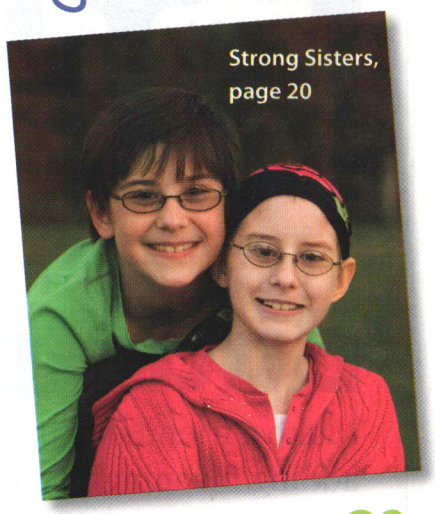

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Cover photo: Steven Talley

Girls EXPRESS

Bud Beads

Make a friendship bracelet special by adding meaningful charms and a cute tag.

Lexi: These are butterflies on a bracelet so that you won't have them in your stomach. Break a leg at the talent show!
This is a Tickled Pink bracelet, full of the things you love best.
Smile, Shelli—you won the race!

Make a simple bracelet by stringing charms and colorful beads on a piece of elastic cord. Double-knot the ends, and snip off any long pieces.

You know that your friend loves dolphins, stars, flowers, and the color pink. So make her a bracelet with all of them!

Make a tag to explain what your bracelet means. That way, only you and your friend will know its secret.

Meet an AG Reader

Evan R.
Age 10, Tennessee

I live with my mom and dad and my little sister, Morgan.

Words my friends would use to describe me: shy, smart, and nice

My favorite snack: cereal with milk

In my free time, I like to read, spend time outside, and hang out with my friends.

One thing people wouldn't guess about me: I'm quiet and shy, but I have the LOUDEST scream.

My proudest day was the day that I convinced my family to stop using paper plates so that we could be kinder to the environment.

I can't live without my best friend. We are the closest friends ever.

In 20 years, I'll be an environmentalist. I want to do a lot to protect the earth.

My favorite part of AG: The stories. I absolutely love reading!

Introduce Yourself!

To find out how you could be a featured reader, go to americangirlmagazine.com and click on "Start the fun."

Illustrations: Tracey Wood

Enter AG's Story Contest

You could be our winning writer! Here are the rules:

1. Write a creative story that includes the illustrated scene below. Give your story a holiday theme, set in November or December. All characters need to be made up by you.

2. Your story shouldn't be longer than 1,500 words, which is about five handwritten pages or three typed pages. Handwritten pages should be very neat.

3. Include your first and last name, address, phone number, school photo or other portrait, and birth date. You and a parent must sign your story to say that you made it up.

4. Mail your story to the address on page 7, postmarked by April 9, 2010. Contest winners will appear in the November/December 2010 issue. We can't wait to read your story! You'll hear from us if you win.

Here's what we would love to see in your story:

- a great title—the more creative, the better
- laugh-out-loud humor
- a surprise somewhere in the story
- a happy ending

Super Stumpers

Challenge your friends to solve these tricky riddles.

1. What does a cat have that no other animals have?

2. If you have two coins that add up to six cents—and one is not a nickel—then what are the two coins?

3. Carrie throws a ball as hard as she can. The ball comes right back to her, even though nothing and nobody touches it. How?

Answers

1. Kittens

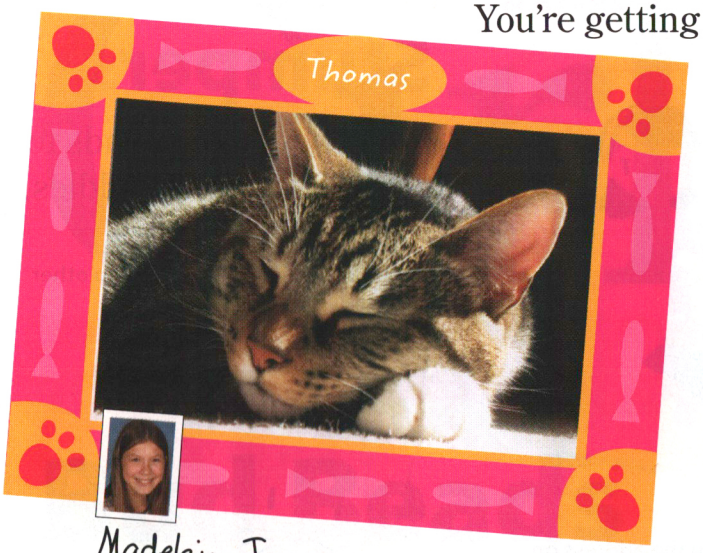
2. One coin is not a nickel—but the other one is! The coins are a nickel and a penny.

3. Carrie throws the ball straight up.

AG Art Gallery

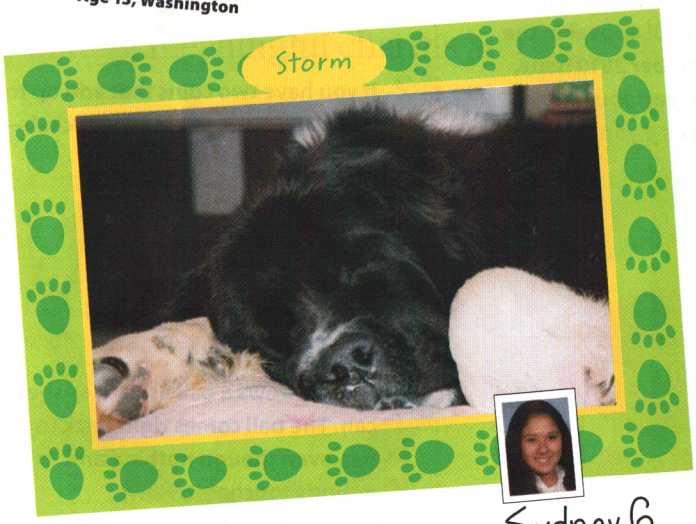
You're getting very sleeeepy…

Help us fill our gallery! Send color copies of artwork or photos **created by YOU** to the address on page 7. Color copies of your art are OK. Sorry, we can't return entries.

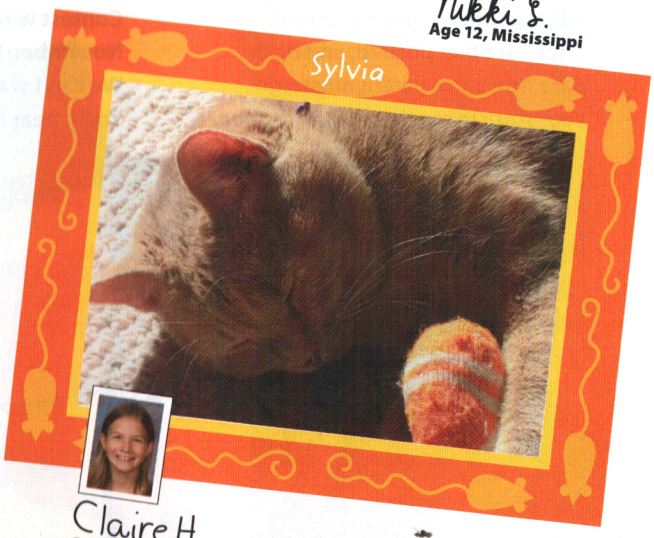


Madeleine J.
Age 13, Washington

Nikki S.
Age 12, Mississippi



Sydney G.
Age 14, Maryland

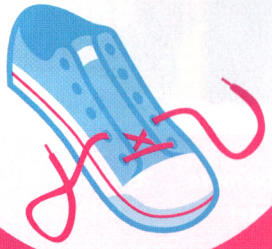


Claire H.
Age 13, Wisconsin

Be a Lace Ace

Do up your shoes in a creative new way.

1. Start with the laces as shown, leaving an equal length on each side.



2. Weave the laces once down each side of the shoe before crossing them again.

Shining Star

Sydney F. cares about the environment—so much that she rode her bike across the country to tell people about protecting the earth.

In spring 2008, she joined a small group of students on the ride. Sydney, now 12, had trained for months, getting ready to bike 20 to 30 miles a day on the trip. The group took turns riding, with two or three riders on the road while the others followed in a van. When she wasn't riding, Sydney updated her blog, did homework, helped the other riders, and prepared for speeches.

The group went to Earth Day celebrations and other fun events, speaking to crowds about the environment. Sydney met lots of other kids working to make a difference. "I liked seeing things they are doing to help the environment, like planting trees, picking up trash, and cleaning up streams," Sydney says.

The group rode 5,400 miles, from Washington, D.C., back to their homes in Washington state. It took three weeks. Afterward, Sydney didn't stop to rest—she rode her bike to school the very next day! Any girl can help the environment, Sydney says. "The most important thing is to do something," she says. "Even little things make a big difference."

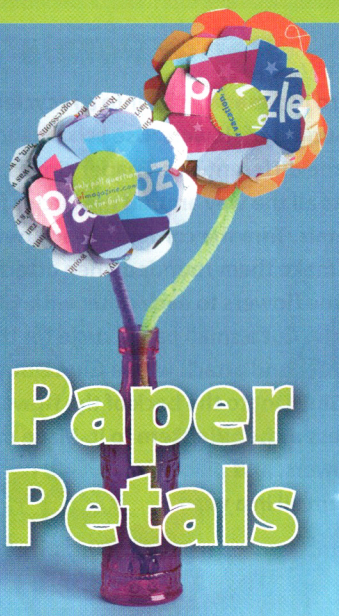
You can shine, too. Have you noticed ways in which your school is more wasteful than it should be? Talk to your teacher or the student council to find the best way to start being green.

3. Weave them once more on each side before tying.

Want another way to make your shoes special? Replace your laces! Depending on your style, these materials can make fun new lacings:

- printed ribbon
- thick yarn
- fabric scraps cut into strips
- lacy trim

Creative Corner



Paper Petals

Cut out card. Flip over for directions.

AG Poll

Answer these questions, and then turn the page to see how your answers compare to those of other AG readers.

What's your favorite birthday dessert?

- cupcakes
- ice cream
- cake
- brownies

What's your favorite afternoon snack?

- fresh fruit
- pretzels
- potato chips
- string cheese

Paper Petals

Turn **old magazines** into a recycled bouquet of flowers. Use **scissors** to cut three different-sized paper circles. Snip slits all the way around the circles for petals. Trim the corners of each petal to make them rounded, then attach the three flowers to each other with **Glue Dots.** Cut a small paper circle for the center and attach with a Glue Dot. Stick a Glue Dot to the back of the flower and press a **chenille stem** to it. Make more flowers, and place them all in a **vase.**

AG Poll

What girls told us at americangirlmagazine.com:

For birthdays, girls picked

43% ice cream

28% cake

17% brownies

11% cupcakes

For snacks, girls chose

55% fresh fruit

23% potato chips

11% string cheese

11% pretzels

To answer our weekly poll question, go to americangirlmagazine.com and click on "Fun for Girls."

Reader Recipe

Claire's Banana Cream Breakfast

Spoon one cup vanilla **Greek-style yogurt** into a bowl. Sprinkle ¼ teaspoon **cinnamon** over the yogurt, and stir. Use a butter knife to cut a **banana** into slices, and arrange the slices on top of the yogurt. Drizzle bananas with **honey,** and dig in!

Claire S.
Age 9, California

Send your yummy—and easy—recipes to the address on page 7.

True Story

Kelsey V. entered a contest with an incredible prize.

Dear American Girl,

I really love horses. My mom works for a horse trainer, and each summer we travel to a big horse show. For the last six years, I have competed, riding other people's ponies. But I had always wished to have a pony of my own.

The show we attend also has an essay contest for kids—and the prize is a pony! I had entered the contest for years, but I had never won. This year, when I met the prize pony—his name was Captivating Carl—I fell in love. I worked extra hard on my essay, using descriptive words and getting the punctuation and spelling just right. I wrote about how much I love horses and that I wanted to share Carl with my baby nephew when he gets older.

At the ceremony to announce the winner, the announcer began to read the winning essay. I recognized my own words and started to cry with happiness. I had actually won! Everyone congratulated me, and it felt great.

Now that Carl is home with me, I have a big responsibility to train and care for him. I know he is happy because he likes to sniff me and nuzzle me. I love my pony. One day, he'll make a great horse for my nephew, too.

Sincerely,

Kelsey V.
Age 11, Arkansas

Doodle School

Make sure that you pay attention in class. But if you have a few seconds…

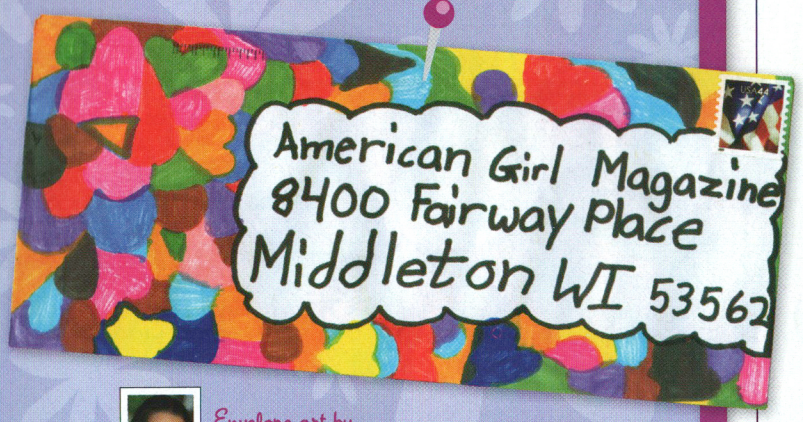
Write to Us

Be sure to include your

- first and last name
- address and phone number
- birth date, including year
- school photo or other portrait
- parent's signature

Send us a cool envelope! Print our address neatly on the front and your return address on the back.

We can't print every letter, but we read everything you send to us. Hope to hear from you soon!



Envelope art by
Rebecca K.
Age 8, New York

Fantasy Flowers

More than 1,700 readers sent us a garden of never-before-seen flowers. These girls really let their creativity bloom!

Paintbrush Petals
Autumn B.
Age 12, New York

Horn Flower
Erica B.
Age 11, New York

Breakfast Blossom
Lani K.
Age 10, California

Sweet Sprout
Rebecca B.
Age 10, Texas

Beach Bloom
Erin M.
Age 11, Minnesota

Bug Bud
MiKayla P.
Age 11, Ohio

School Days-y
Hannah R.
Age 11, North Carolina

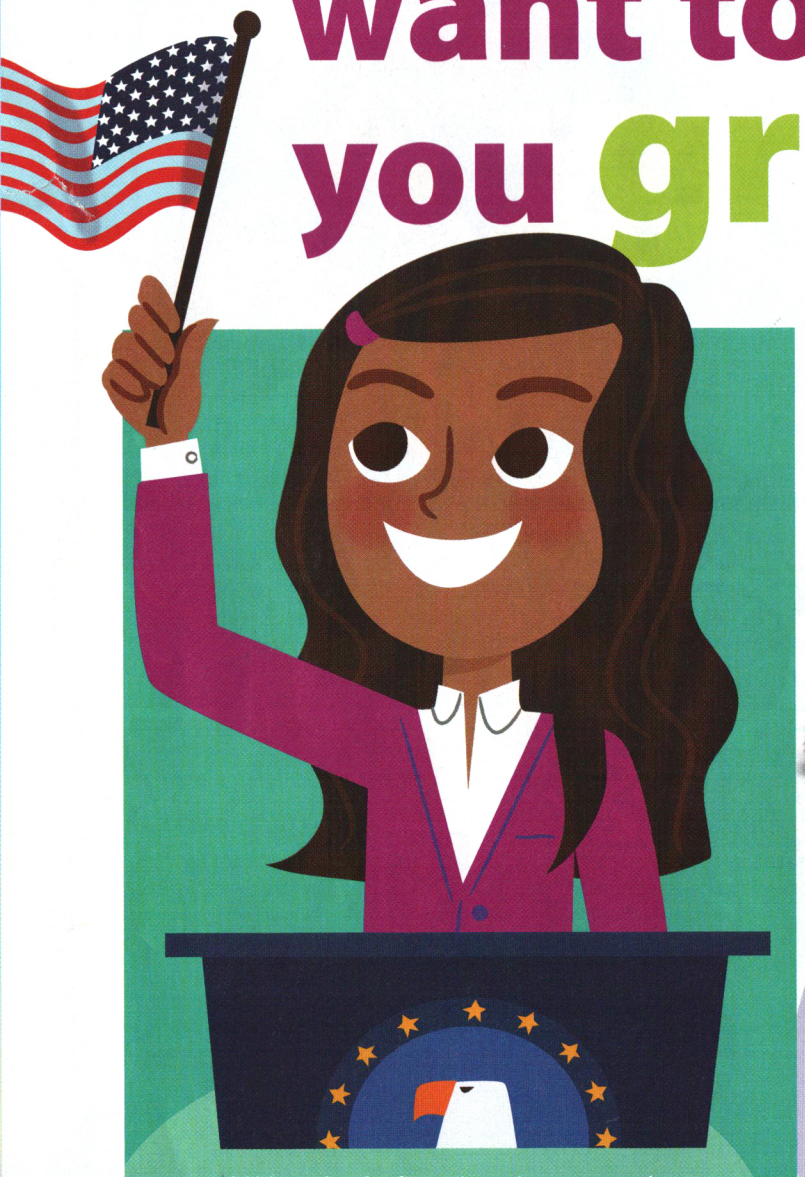
Sugar Stem
Mārja B.
Age 11, South Carolina

New Contest: Dream Lockers

Imagine a school locker that could do a lot more than store books. Maybe your locker could make breakfast for you every morning. Or perhaps your locker could help you study for tests! Send a drawing of your dream locker with a description of it to the address on page 7, along with your first and last name, address, school photo, and birth date. Postmark deadline: April 10, 2010. Winners will appear in the September/October 2010 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.

NEW Department!

What do you want to be when you grow up?



I would like to be the first Hispanic woman to be

President of the United States.

Elizabeth Q.
Age 11, Virginia

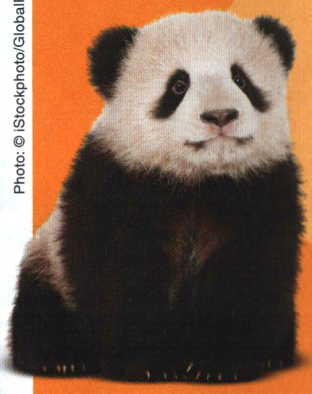


Photo: © iStockphoto/GlobalP

I want to be a zoologist, which is a person who studies animals. My goal is to bring **endangered animals** back to healthy population levels. I don't want animals to be endangered anymore!

Morgan W.
Age 8, New York

When I grow up, I want to dance in a professional ballet company. When I dance, I feel **beautiful, strong, and happy.** I don't care if I become famous—I just want to be able to make people feel the way I feel when I dance.

Elizabeth A.
Age 13, Massachusetts

Illustrations: Paige Pooler

Top Jobs

These are the top five jobs readers want to have when they grow up:

Cassidy S., age 11, Kentucky, and her dog, Koko

I want to be a(n)...

professional softball player

Courtney W.
Age 12, South Carolina

wildlife photographer

Caroline B.
Age 12, New Jersey

pastry chef

Bailey B.
Age 12, Maryland

FBI agent

Elaine B.
Age 10, California

paleontologist
(a scientist who studies fossils)

Kate B.
Age 9, Indiana

Olympic swimmer

Taylor W.
Age 10, California

Next question!

Lauren W.

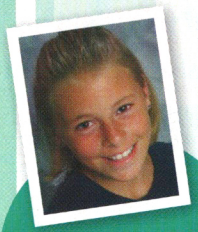
This question is from 11-year old Lauren W. of Florida: "If you could have any animal as a pet, what would you choose and why?" Maybe you would keep a sea otter in a bathtub or an elephant in the backyard. Or perhaps you would choose a beagle because you've always dreamed of having a dog. Send your answers to Lauren's question to the address on page 7. Postmark deadline: April 10, 2010. Some answers will appear in the September/October 2010 issue. ★

Have you always wanted to know something about other *American Girl* readers? Send us your questions, and you may be featured in an upcoming issue!

Parties by YOU!

We asked you to send us your best party ideas, and they were awesome! Here are some of our favorites.

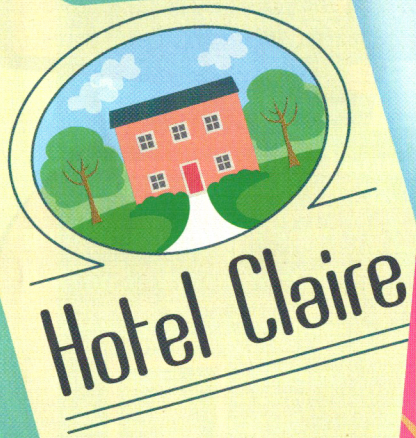
Pretend Hotel Sleepover



This party theme came from Claire S., age 12, Michigan.

Invitations

Design your invitation to look like a hotel brochure. Name the hotel after yourself, such as the Hotel Claire. Write, "You're invited to spend a fabulous night at Hotel Claire" on the front.



The Lobby

Pick a room to be the lobby. Play classical music softly in the background. When your guests arrive, point them in the direction of the check-in counter—a table or desk that you have set up. Ask a parent to sign in your guests. Ask a sibling to be the bellhop and lead your guests to their suite while carrying their luggage.

1

Super Special Suite

Decorations

Print off pretend hotel room numbers and signs at americangirlmagazine.com—click on "Start the fun." You also can make a sign with fake buttons for the "elevator" (stairs). Give your bedroom a name, such as the "Super Special Suite," and hang a pretty decorated sign.

Packing Challenge

See how good your guests are at packing—with their eyes closed! Pick two players, and give each one a suitcase and an equal pile of clothes, such as five pairs of jeans, five shirts, and three pairs of shoes. Keeping her eyes closed, each player packs as quickly and neatly as she can for one minute. The fullest and neatest suitcase wins!

The Five-Star Restaurant

Ask a parent or sibling to be the chef—he or she can even dress up—and ring a bell when it's time for dinner. Lead your guests to their seats in the "restaurant," where the "chef" will serve dinner and dessert. While everyone is eating, ask a parent or sibling to place wrapped chocolates on all of the guests' pillows.

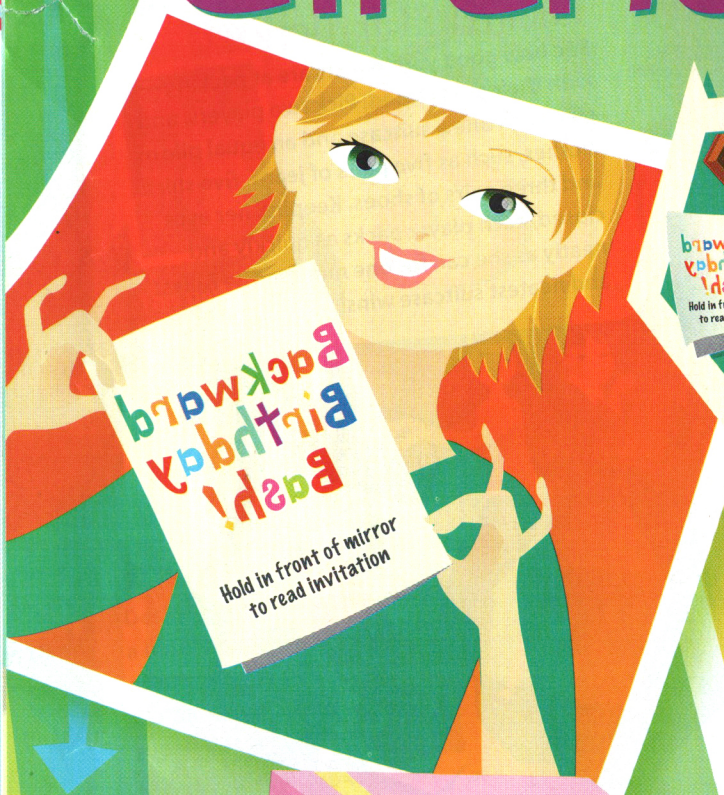
Favors

Wrap travel-sized soap, shampoo, and conditioner in a square of tulle and tie closed with a ribbon bow. Leave one of these in the "suite" for each guest.

Illustrations: Stacy Peterson

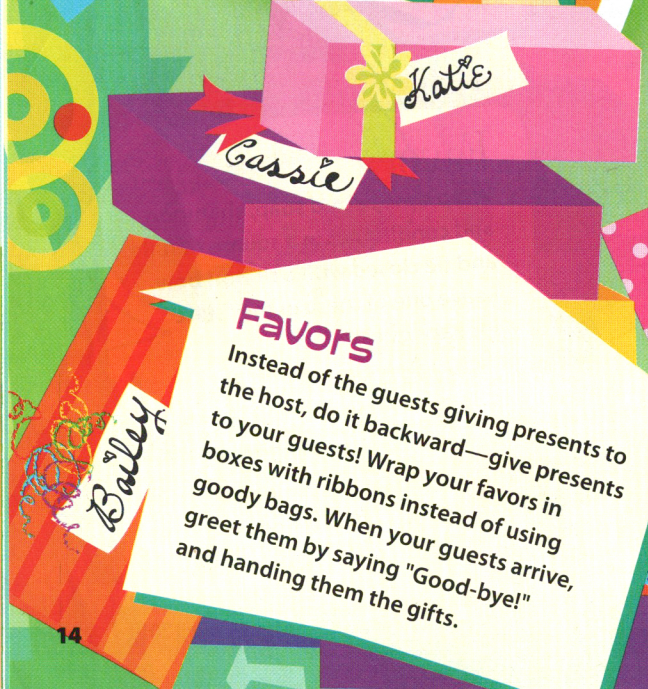
This party theme came from Robyn M., age 10, New York.

Backward Birthday Bash



Invitations

If you make your invitations with backward writing, your guests will have to hold them up to a mirror to read them! First, write your party details with thick black marker on a piece of white paper. Flip the paper over, and use the marker to trace over the backs of the letters. Copy the information onto your invitations.



Favors

Instead of the guests giving presents to the host, do it backward—give presents to your guests! Wrap your favors in boxes with ribbons instead of using goody bags. When your guests arrive, greet them by saying "Good-bye!" and handing them the gifts.

Backward Fashion Show

After you've eaten—cake before pizza, of course!—make a new fashion statement. Pretend that a hallway is the runway. Take turns walking down the runway wearing your best backward fashions, such as a backward hat or backward robe.

Pin the Donkey on the Tail

Play this traditional game backward! Before your party, print cute game pieces from americangirlmagazine.com—click on "Start the fun." To play, use a removable adhesive to attach the tail to the wall, and put some on the back of each donkey. Have each guest stand a few feet away from the wall, close her eyes, and hold the donkey in her hand. She must walk to the wall with her eyes closed and try to place the donkey in the correct place.

Backward Limbo

This game is just as silly when it's played backward. Hold a broomstick between two girls. Start by holding the stick low. Guests try to "limbo" their way under the stick without touching it. Keep moving the stick higher and higher. How high can you go?

Backward Freeze Dance

Laugh and dance during this game! Ask one person to be in charge of turning the music on and off. When the music is off, everyone dances. When the music is on, everyone has to freeze. If someone forgets to freeze, she has to sit down. The last guest standing is the winner.

This party theme came from Andrea V., age 10, Michigan, and Madeline P., age 10, Pennsylvania.

Fancy French Party

Invitations

Decorate your invitations with a poodle wearing a beret. (That's a slouchy hat, pronounced bur-ray.) Write *"Bonjour! You're invited!"* Include your party details inside.

Favors

Include a pretty hair tie to use with a French braid, a French flag or Eiffel Tower figurine, and mini easels to display art that the guests will create at the party. Check your dollar store for these items.

Party Treats

Serve Brie cheese with French bread or croissants, and dessert crepes. You can find packaged crepes in some grocery stores (check in the produce department). Smear chocolate hazelnut spread on a crepe, and place sliced bananas on top. Fold each crepe in half—and then in half again—to make a triangle. Ask an adult to heat each crepe in the microwave for 5 seconds.

Art Studio

Have your guests create their own "famous" artwork. Give each guest a mini canvas, found at craft stores. Lay out colored pencils and markers for your guests, and invite guests to create their masterpieces. When everyone is finished, hand out the favor bags with mini easels inside. Create a mini art gallery display, and invite your family to admire it.

French Lessons

Ask someone who knows how to make a French braid to teach your guests. Partner up and try to braid each other's hair. While you're braiding, learn a few French words, such as these:

cheese
le fromage (luh froh-mahzh)

book
le livre (luh leev-ruh)

Cool
Fantastique (fahn-tahs-teek)

flowers
les fleurs (lay fluhr)

Cute
Adorable (ah-doh-rah-bleh)

French-arades

Before the party, print off slips of French translations at americangirlmagazine.com—click on "Start the fun." Cut out the slips and place them in a bowl. At the party, choose one player to pick a slip out of the bowl while the others sit and watch. The player reads the French phrase out loud and then has to act it out without speaking. The group has to guess the meaning.

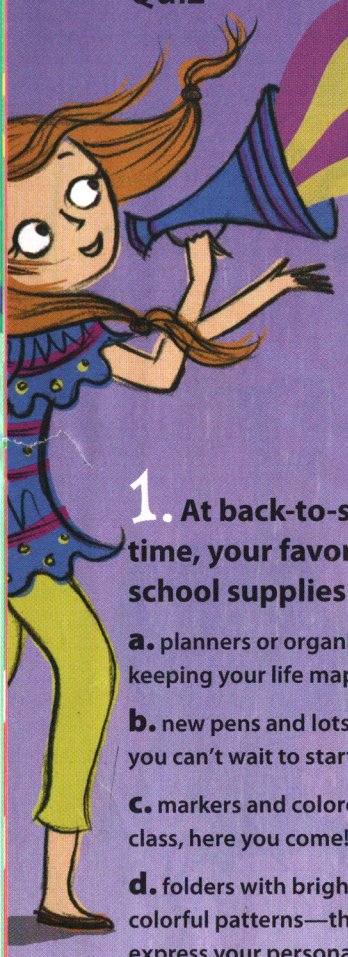
Merci!

Send your guests simple thank-you cards made from colored paper. Instead of writing "Thank you," write "Merci" (mair-see). It means "thanks" in French! ★

Quiz

Casting Call

Take this fun quiz to discover which moviemaking job suits you best.



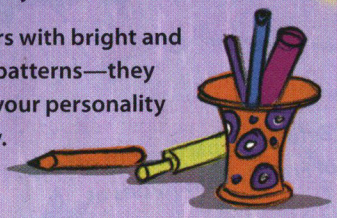
1. At back-to-school time, your favorite new school supplies are

a. planners or organizers—you love keeping your life mapped out.

b. new pens and lots of fresh paper—you can't wait to start writing.

c. markers and colored pencils—art class, here you come!

d. folders with bright and colorful patterns—they express your personality perfectly.



2. Which of these volunteer jobs would you like the most?

a. setting up a fund-raiser for your town's library

b. starting a letter-writing campaign to help save a nearby park

c. sorting through piles of clothing at your community's secondhand store

d. singing for the residents of a local nursing home

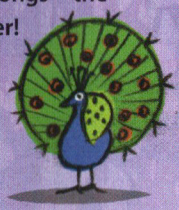
3. At sleepovers, you love to

a. take photos of your friends having tons of fun.

b. read all the latest magazines.

c. have a fashion show, complete with hairstyles and jewelry.

d. make up dances to songs—the more creative, the better!



4. If you were a bird, you'd be

a. a hummingbird—you have an endless supply of energy!

b. an eagle—you have an eye for details.

c. a peacock—you have a great sense of style.

d. a mockingbird—you do excellent imitations.

5. While working on a group science project about weather, you'd probably

a. take charge, assign each person a task, and make sure that all the jobs get done on time.

b. work on the written report.

c. make a full-color diagram of the earth and its weather patterns.

d. present the project to the class.

6. If you had to help your mom babysit two-year-old twins, you would

a. take the twins to the backyard to play. That way they would be hungry for lunch—and then ready for a nap!

b. tell the twins a story you made up yourself.

c. entertain the girls by helping them draw and color.

d. put on a puppet show, complete with funny voices.

7. In your free time, you can be found

a. playing checkers—you love to come up with good strategies.

b. doing a crossword puzzle—you have a great vocabulary, and you like to use it.

c. sketching in a sketchbook—you've always loved to draw.

d. playing charades—your performances win laughs and the game!

Answers

Mostly a's
Directing Diva

You're organized and motivated, and you always seem to see the big picture. Your friends respect you and your ideas, and they don't mind following your lead. You'd make a great movie director.

Mostly b's
Word Wiz

Let's face it: You are a totally terrific writer. Your friends love to read your stories, and your favorite school assignments are ones that require words. Movies need a writer like you to provide the scripts.

Mostly c's
Costume Queen

You've got a flair for fashion, so you'd make an excellent costume designer. You're always imaginative, and your great style shows up in everything you create. Fans would adore your original designs.

Mostly d's
Acting Ace

You perform all the time, even offstage. You sing or speak in a funny voice whenever you feel like it, and your friends love seeing how you react to things they say. You'd make an awesome actress. ★

Illustrations: Josee Masse

Emily's illness was hard for everyone. But it brought Emily, right, and her sister, Sarah, closer together.

Strong Sisters

One sister had cancer.
The other was there for her every step of the way.

For Emily R., the past year and a half has been all about growing up again.

Emily just turned 12, so she's not a little kid. But in summer 2008, she developed a brain tumor, which turned out to be cancer. Surgery removed the tumor, but it also wiped away a lot of what Emily had already learned to do once—to walk, to eat, even to speak.

So what did Emily do? With help and support from her family—including her younger sister, Sarah—she got to work learning everything again.

Emily got lots of support from people while she was in the hospital. She got cards from teachers, classmates, and even her vice principal. "It was like a flood of cards! I couldn't open them fast enough," she says.

Emily first got sick during a family vacation at the beach a year and a half ago. She woke up one day not feeling well at all. During the day, she got sicker and sicker, and her parents had to call an ambulance. When Emily got to the hospital, doctors took a scan of her head to try to figure out how to help her. The scan told them that something was very wrong, and the doctors sent Emily in a helicopter to a bigger hospital.

It turned out that Emily had a brain tumor, and doctors planned an operation to remove it. The surgery took seven hours. "The whole thing seemed like a big dream, like it wasn't happening," Emily says. But she remembers her family coming to visit her afterward. Said Sarah: "It was sort of scary seeing her in the hospital. I felt like she could get better in time, but I worried that she would never be able to run or play again."

"I wanted to get better, and I knew *I* would have to do it."

– Emily

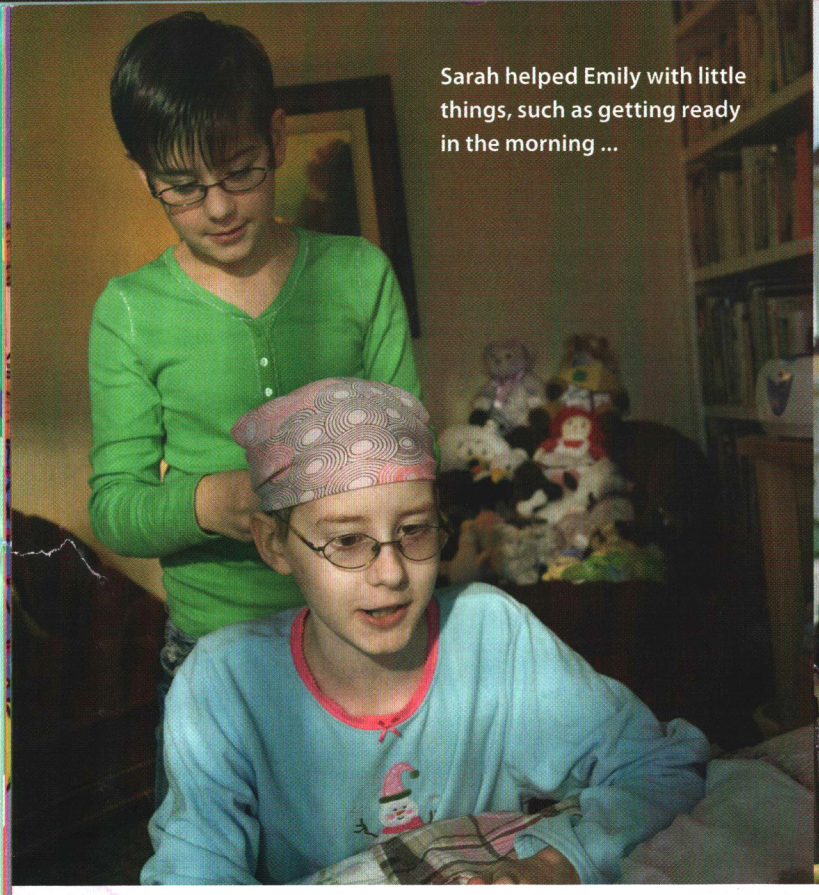
That's because after the surgery, the tumor was gone, but so were many of Emily's abilities. Emily had things to say, but her brain had forgotten how to help her talk. She wanted to go places, but her arms and legs wouldn't move the way she wanted. She was the same girl as before, but things that used to be so easy to do now seemed almost impossible.

That didn't stop Emily, though. "I felt like I was never going to be able to do those things at first," she says. "But I wanted to get better, and I knew *I* would have to do it. So I thought I might as well try."

Emily started a busy schedule of physical and speech therapies to bring back her movement and voice. She also started *chemotherapy,* which is taking doses of strong medicines that fight cancer. The chemo (it's pronounced KEY-mo) made all her hair fall out and left her feeling weak and sick. She managed to keep up with her schoolwork, but nothing was easy—not even sitting still and reading. One of Emily's conditions made her eyes move when she didn't want them to, making reading very difficult. Also, she needed to use a wheelchair to get around.

The family was apart for several months while Emily was being treated. Emily's parents stayed at

Photos: Aaron Clamage



Sarah helped Emily with little things, such as getting ready in the morning ...

... and getting set for bike riding.

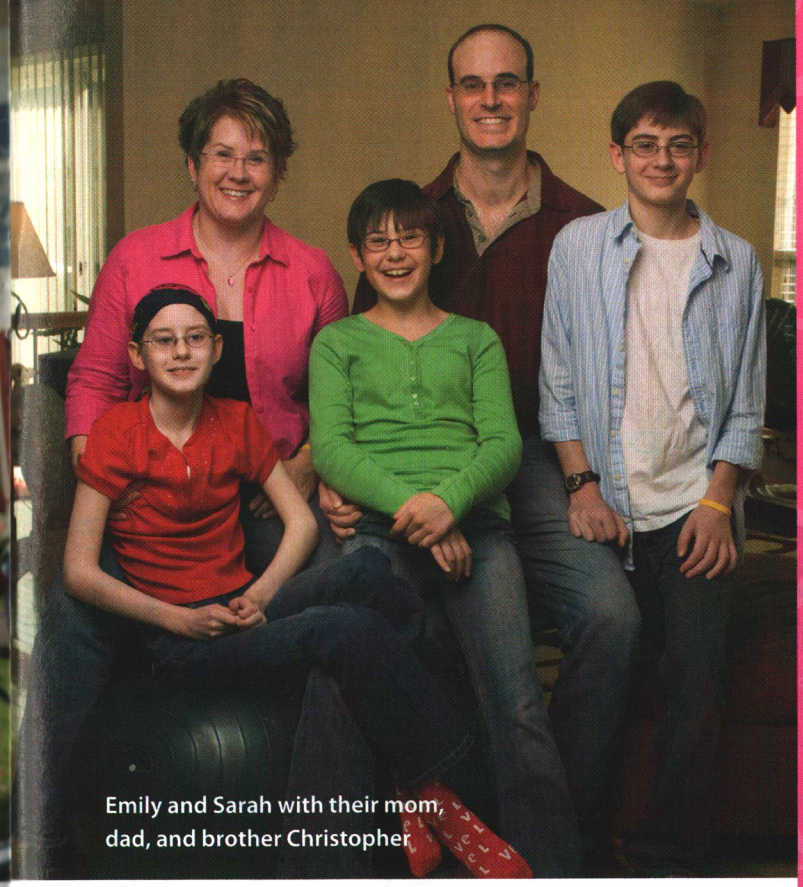
the hospital or at a nearby home for patients' families. Sarah, age 9, was home with her brothers and relatives who came to stay with them. It was hard for everyone to be separated, but Sarah did get to visit Emily sometimes, and she made the most of her trips. Sarah brought some of Emily's favorite movies and games and played them with her. She cheered for Emily when her walking therapy went well. She would rub Emily's feet and back, and she also helped out when Emily's eyes wouldn't let her read. Sarah read Emily's school textbooks to her—spelling out words she didn't know how to say so that Emily would still understand. "I spent most of my free time with Emily instead of with my friends," Sarah says. She wanted to do everything she could to help Emily, but sometimes it didn't feel like enough.

"It would just be so cool if everyone saw me walking up to get my diploma."

– Emily

Last March, Emily's family found something they could *all* do to support Emily. The girls' mom learned about an organization that raises money to pay for children's cancer research. People offer to shave their heads in exchange for donations. With no hair, the volunteers look a little bit like the cancer patients they're helping.

The girls' mom decided to shave her own head to raise money. She mentioned the idea to Sarah, who immediately decided to do it, too. As part of Sarah's birthday celebration, Sarah, her mom, the girls' two brothers, and a family friend all had their heads shaved. The group raised nearly $5,000 for cancer research, and Sarah wants to do it again this year. "I was giving other people a gift for my birthday, but it was also a gift to myself," Sarah says. "And a gift to Emily, too."

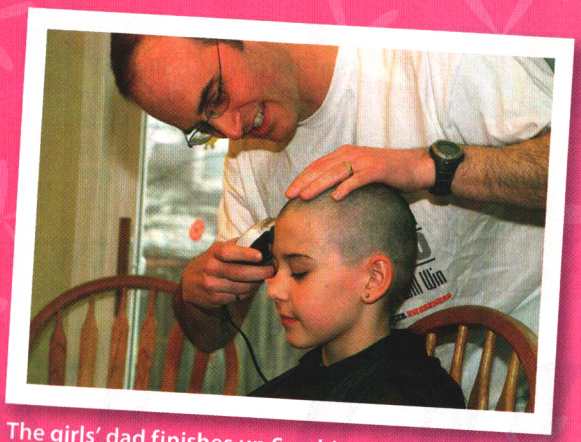


Emily and Sarah with their mom, dad, and brother Christopher

Last spring, Emily had her last chemo treatment. She still works hard in therapy, and she improves every day. She can eat solid food again and dress herself. She goes to school, instead of studying at home with a teacher. She can talk, laugh, and tell people her story. She is thankful when she thinks about all the support she got from her friends and family, including from Sarah. "It made me feel really special," Emily says.

When Emily's fifth-grade class had a ceremony to celebrate the students going off to middle school, she got to attend. She had been working hard in therapy, building her strength. "I thought it would just be so cool if everyone saw me walking up to get my diploma," Emily says. With her brothers holding her arms, she got up from her wheelchair and walked across the stage. When she turned back to the audience, she saw the crowd on its feet, clapping happily for her. Sarah was right there, too, cheering the loudest of all for her sister. ★

Shaving their heads for Emily



The girls' dad finishes up Sarah's new 'do.

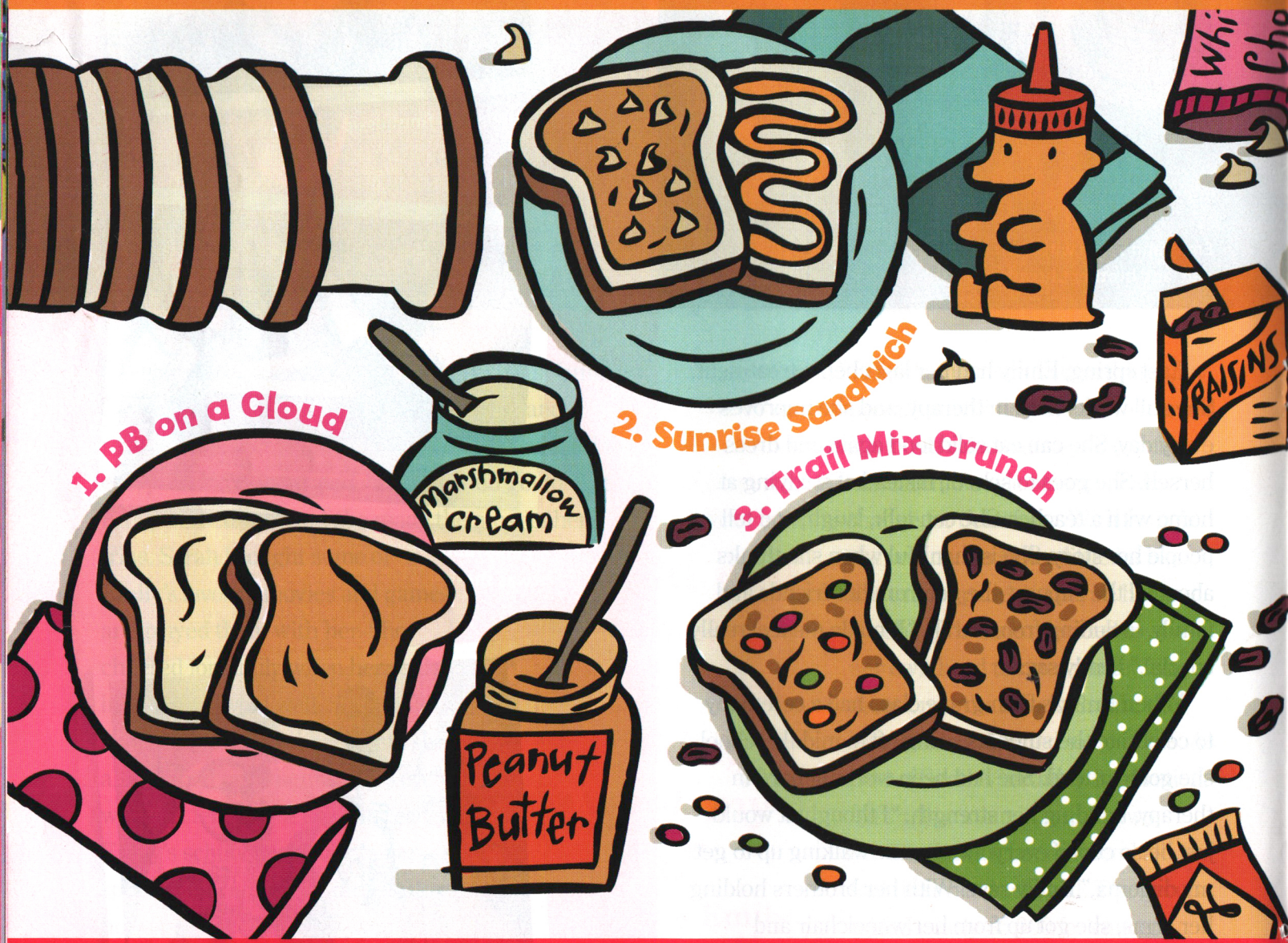
Emily rubbed everyone's heads after their hair was shaved. "That was my favorite part," she says.

The team supporting Emily included family friend Brett P., the girls' older brother Corey, Sarah, the girls' mom , and the girls' brother Christopher.

Cooking

PB & Yay!

Try these tasty twists on your PB&J sandwiches.



1. PB on a Cloud

- Bread
- Peanut butter
- Marshmallow cream spread

2. Sunrise Sandwich

- Bread
- Peanut butter
- Honey
- White chocolate chips

3. Trail Mix Crunch

- Bread
- Crunchy peanut butter
- Raisins
- Chocolate candies

Illustrations: Mary Lynn Biasutta

4. Gimme S'More

- Bread
- Peanut butter
- Marshmallow cream spread
- Mini chocolate chips
- Graham cracker cereal

5. Monkey Munch

- Bread
- Crunchy peanut butter
- Chocolate hazelnut spread
- Banana slices

6. Chocolate Crisp

- Bread
- Peanut butter
- Chocolate hazelnut spread
- Chocolate rice crisp cereal ★

Fab-YOU-lous

Quiz

Are You a Trendsetter or a Fashion Follower?

1. Your friends are all hoping for animal-print tote bags for their birthdays. You're hoping for…

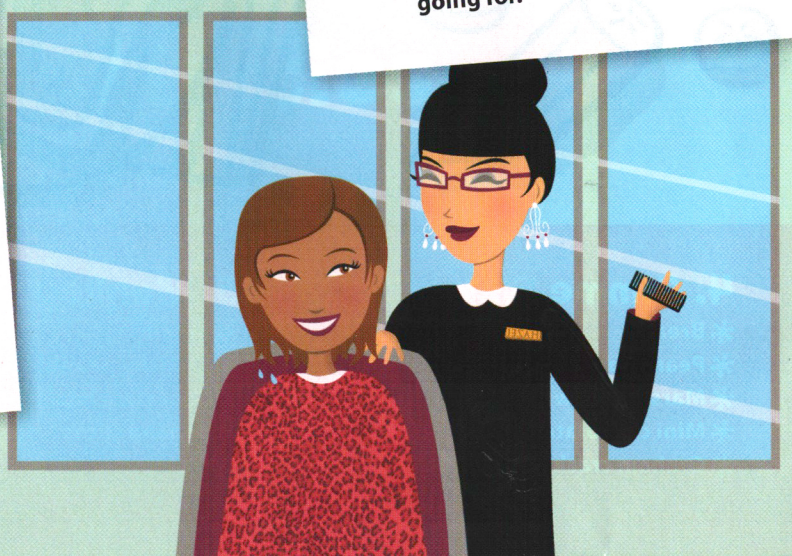
- **a.** an animal-print tote bag, of course—they're so cool!
- **b.** a tote bag made of recycled plastic—going green is cool!
- **c.** a felted bag you saw at a craft sale—handmade things are cool!

2. When it's time to choose a new pair of athletic shoes, you…

- **a.** choose white like everyone else.
- **b.** pick a pair with a fashionable metallic stripe.
- **c.** are thrilled to find they come in orange—your favorite color!

3. You're heading for a haircut and preparing to tell the stylist what you want. You…

- **a.** bring along a photo of your best friend. You want your hair to look just like hers.
- **b.** ask the stylist what looks are popular right now.
- **c.** describe to the stylist the one-of-a-kind look you're going for.



Illustrations: Shannon Laskey

Fashion

by Sharon Cindrich

Find out how you can make your personality shine through your fashion choices.

4. Someone cracks a joke about the sequined pockets on your new jeans. You…

a. take a survey of your friends, see what they think, and ask them if you should wear the jeans again.

b. pull out a magazine showing a celebrity wearing the *same* jeans.

c. shrug off the joke and walk tall—you love your new look!

5. The school dance is coming. You really want something new to wear, but you don't have a lot of spending money. You…

a. find out what your friends are wearing, and beg your parents to lend you the cash to buy the same thing.

b. scour discount stores for something that resembles the latest look.

c. take last year's dress, add a few accessories, and invent a totally fresh look.

Answers

Friend follower

If you answered mostly **a**'s, you depend a lot on the attitudes and comments of friends when choosing what to wear. It can feel good to fit in, but don't let that desire hold you back from being your own girl. Find the courage to try on your own style for size.

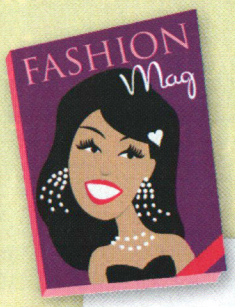
Trend tracker

If you answered mostly **b**'s, you like exploring new trends but don't always fully express yourself for fear of sticking out. Looking to fashion trends for ideas isn't a problem. Just make sure it doesn't smother your own great creative style.

Style setter

If you answered mostly **c**'s, you love finding new styles as much as sharing them with others. Being unique is something you savor, and you're not afraid to wear something you love even if no one else is wearing anything like it.

Turn page for more advice.



Fashion Inspiration

You can get style ideas from...

A person.

Maybe there's a musician you like who wears unique hats, or a girl at school who has a great jewelry collection. You don't have to copy a person's outfit exactly, but bits and pieces of someone's style can inspire you.

A place.

Look around you for fashion inspiration. If you live near the beach, for example, the bright colors of the ocean and the flowers could inspire you to add some of those bold colors to your wardrobe.

A passion.

The things you feel strongly about can have a big impact on your style. If you're an animal lover, you could wear a T-shirt with your favorite wildlife on it. Or if you believe in saving the environment, you might wear clothing made from natural fabrics.

A hobby.

Your interests can influence what you wear. If you're a dancer, wear ballet flats. If you like horseback riding, you could wear a pair of riding boots.

A Style Inspiration Board

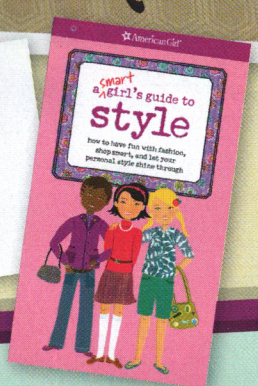
Gather together things that inspire you, and use them to create a collage on a bulletin board. Here are a few ideas.

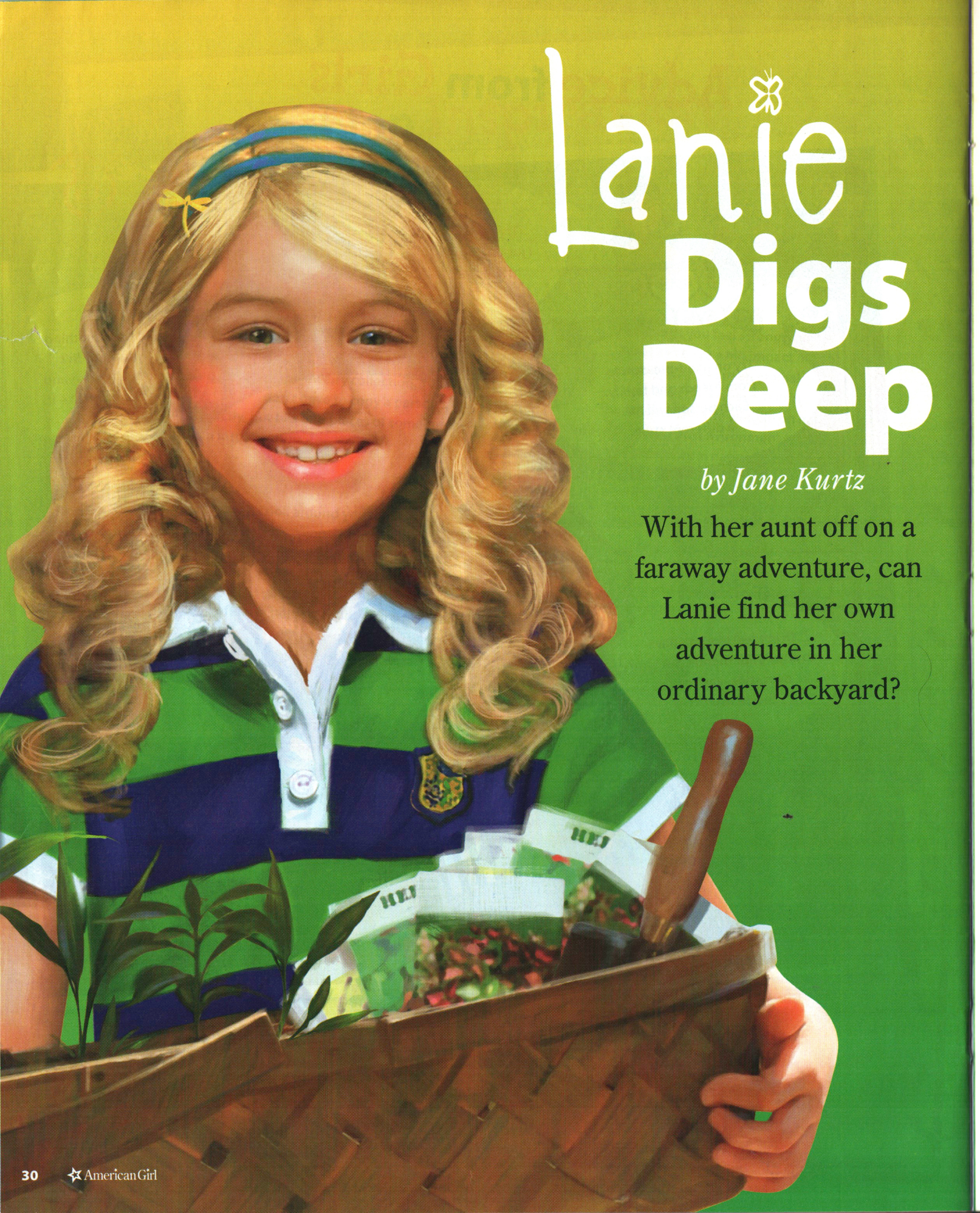
- Pictures of styles clipped from magazines
- Scraps of fabric in pretty colors and patterns
- Photos of you in your favorite outfits
- Postcards of places you've been or would like to go
- Words and sayings that make you smile or feel strong

Advice from Girls

Try new colors. I just bought some purple shoes!
Try on hand-me-downs from friends and family. Each person will have a different style.
Go to lots of different stores. If you run out of ideas, ask other girls where they shop. If you like a girl's style, you could talk to her about fashion tricks and ideas.
Put on something you wouldn't normally wear and see how you like it.
Don't feel like you have to copy your friends. Set your own style, and maybe they'll copy YOU.
Look for clothes that fit your personality. After a while, you'll see a piece of clothing and be able to say, "Wow, that is so me." ★

There is more fashion advice in *A Smart Girl's Guide to Style*, available in bookstores.





Lanie Digs Deep

by Jane Kurtz

With her aunt off on a faraway adventure, can Lanie find her own adventure in her ordinary backyard?

The sun woke me early that morning, but I was way too excited to sleep anyway. I hugged myself. Another day in the garden with Aunt Hannah! I jumped out of bed and ran to my window. From above, the backyard looked completely different from any of the neighbors' yards: it was almost all dirt now, with just a small patch of lawn by the big deck. The vegetable flats were still arrayed on the deck, just waiting for Aunt Hannah and me to plant them.

Aunt Hannah is Mom's younger sister. She's always doing something amazing, such as climbing trees to study rare birds in Hawaii, but she's staying at our house until she goes back to school in the fall. She's the only person in this family who likes being outside as much as I do. Someday, I'm going to have incredible adventures just like her.

She and I had transformed part of the yard into space for a garden. We'd mapped out an area, dug up the grass, and added shovelfuls of topsoil that we had raked smooth. We had planted wildflower seeds and were set to put in vegetable plants. I was on my spring break from school, so I could look forward to a whole week of outdoor fun with my aunt.

I got dressed quickly and hurried downstairs. As I neared the first floor, I saw Mom and Dad in the kitchen, drinking coffee and reading the paper. This was highly unusual. It wasn't even 7 o'clock yet, and they normally slept in on Sundays.

I burst into the room. "What's going on?"

"Sweetie," Mom began, and then hesitated and exchanged a glance with Dad.

Uh-oh. A bad sign. Whatever it was, I didn't want to hear it. "I'm going to go see Aunt Hannah," I told them, heading to the deck door.

"Honey—she's gone," said Mom.

"Gone? What do you mean, gone?"

"Honey—she's gone," said Mom.

"Gone? What do you mean, gone?"

"Just for six weeks," Mom explained. "She got a call late last night from some bird people she knows in Costa Rica. One of the researchers on a project there broke his leg, and they asked her to fill in. She had to fly out first thing this morning."

Six whole weeks? That was forever.

I glanced out at the deck. I could barely look at the flats of baby vegetables just sitting there. They were probably wondering who was going to plant them, and I was wondering the same thing.

I trudged up to my room to see my lop-eared rabbit, Lulu. At least she was always there for me. At least she didn't go disappearing off to exotic countries at the drop of a hat to have incredible adventures, leaving me stuck behind in boring old Boston. I picked up Lulu, and she snuffled her head into the crook of my elbow, her favorite spot. I buried my face in her sweet-smelling fur and told myself sternly not to cry.

Illustrations: Robert Papp

Just then, the door to my room swung open, and my seven-year-old sister, Emily, barged into my room. "Hey, Lanie, Mom's making pineapple pancakes—she told me to tell you they'll be ready in a few minutes. Did you hear that Aunt Hannah left? In the middle of the night! Can I help you with your science journal? I could color the pictures."

At school, we start every Monday morning writing in our science journals. I want to be a wildlife biologist, so I draw pictures of things I've seen in nature, and I take notes about my observations. Emily is always asking to help with my journal, but it's too important for a seven-year-old to touch.

"No! And stay out of my room." I jumped up and slammed the door.

After breakfast, I moped in my room for a while and then decided to take Lulu outside. I tied her to the plum tree by the deck while I got out the hose to water the wildflower plants. They looked small and pathetic.

I tried to remind myself of the beautiful wild garden pictured on the seed packet that Aunt Hannah had showed me, but now I could hardly remember what it looked like.

Before winding the hose back up, I took it over to the deck and gave the vegetable flats a few squirts. To my surprise, the soil in the flats was already bone-dry. Some of the baby vegetables looked top-heavy and ready to flop over, as though they were already too big for their tiny pots. It was obvious that they needed to get into the ground.

But there were so many of them! Each flat had eighteen plants, and there were three flats each of tomatoes, zucchini, peppers, and herbs—that made fifty-four plants. If they didn't get planted, and soon, they would die. I couldn't let that happen. What would I tell Aunt Hannah? I couldn't abandon the baby plants—yet how could I possibly plant them all myself?

I fetched a trowel from the garden shed and started digging holes. At least the small plants didn't need very big holes. Still, it was slow going working alone, and my mood didn't improve, even after Mom came out with a sandwich and some lemonade.

"Wow, Lanie, that's a lot of hard work you're doing. Aunt Hannah will be very impressed when she gets back."

Emily was sitting in the hammock on the deck watching us. Suddenly she spoke up. "I can do hard work, too. Wanna see?"

"Sure! Are you going to help Lanie in the garden?" Mom asked Emily.

"No way," said Emily, who was a fraidycat about bugs. "But I helped her with her science journal." She glanced quickly at me and then gave Mom her winning, gap-toothed smile.

My heart skipped a beat, and I put down my

trowel. "What do you mean, Emily?"

She wouldn't look at me, just smiled up at Mom, who beamed back at her, obviously without a clue that something serious might have happened. "The caterpillars are all turned into butterflies," Emily replied in a singsong voice.

"Emily—what are you talking about?" Pulling off my gardening gloves, I stepped up onto the deck and glared down at her. "Where's my journal?"

Slowly Emily lifted her shirt. There was my science journal, sitting on her bare tummy. I reached for it, but she quickly handed it to Mom. "See? I'm a scientist, too."

Mom glanced at me and then began paging through the journal. I watched, frozen, as she turned past my pictures of Stripey, the monarch caterpillar we've been observing at school, and past my drawings of caterpillars hanging, getting ready for the pupa stage. That was the last entry I had made. Mom turned the page, and there, in brightly colored crayon, were lumpy, lime-green pupas. On the next page—the last one in the journal—were big black and orange butterflies with long black antennas. Each butterfly had a smiling face.

My face was not smiling. More like scowling with fury. I snatched the journal from Mom and stared at it in disbelief. "Emily, this was my journal for science class, and you knew that! I worked really hard on these notes, and you've ruined them. You've ruined the whole book!"

Emily had been looking up at me fearfully, and now she burst into tears. "I just wanted to make the butterflies," she sobbed. "I want to be a scientist like you and Aunt Hannah!"

Mom picked up Emily. "Lanie, she didn't ruin the whole book. It looks like she just colored on the last few pages. I'm sure that your teacher will understand."

I ran for the house, kicked off my mud-caked boots, and headed straight to my room. As I stomped up the stairs, the *William Tell* Overture floated down to greet me.

My big sister, Angela, is sixteen. She's been practicing that piece on her cello non-stop for weeks. I used to like it, but hearing it a few hundred times was kind of like wearing an itchy wool sweater in the summer. Irritating!

My face was not smiling. I snatched the journal and stared at it in disbelief.

Before I could think, I burst into Angela's room. "Don't you know any other songs?" I shouted.

The sudden silence was shocking.

Angela put down the bow. "Wow, Lanie. Are you OK? I heard about Aunt Hannah leaving."

My anger faded. I slumped onto her bed and everything came spilling out, about how Aunt Hannah was having an amazing adventure while

I was left behind to make field notes on little caterpillars, only to have them ruined by Emily. How Aunt Hannah had Costa Rica, and all I had was the boring backyard.

Angela sat down next to me on the bed. "You know, I've been watching, and it looks like you're doing amazing things in the backyard. The squirrels are so cute on that feeder—I'm really glad you put that up. They're fun to watch, and it really seems to keep them from digging in your garden."

I sighed. She was being nice, but I knew she couldn't possibly understand how I felt.

Maybe I could have an adventure right here in my own backyard.

"Lanie, everyone knows about my dream of becoming a concert cellist," she said, "but you have dreams, too, don't you." I nodded, and Angela gave my shoulders a squeeze. "Here's something my cello teacher always tells me: the secret to achieving a big dream is to keep taking small steps, and don't let setbacks stop you."

She paused. "Here's another secret that I've never told anyone: sometimes I get really tired of practicing cello."

I sat up. "Seriously?"

She nodded. "You think *you're* tired of the *William Tell* Overture? Sometimes I think if I have to play it one more time, I'll scream!" She giggled, and I felt a surprised smile poking at my mouth. "But then when I play it perfectly, suddenly it sounds beautiful again, and I know I've become a better musician—and I'm that much closer to achieving my dream." She patted my shoulder. "Small steps, Lanie, lots and lots of them—that's what it takes."

Suddenly I realized I had left Lulu tied to the plum tree. "Thanks, Angela," I mumbled, and hurried downstairs.

Mom and Emily had left the deck. As I untied Lulu, I heard a familiar sound—*tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle!*—coming from the area near the garden shed. A Carolina wren. Aunt Hannah had taught me to recognize its call. I squinted and peered out across the yard, trying to spot the bird, but I couldn't see it.

I looked up into the branches overhead. The wren was nowhere to be seen, but the plum tree's new leaves shimmered and glowed in the sunlight. All around me, warm earthy smells rose from the newly turned soil. Birdsong rang cheerfully throughout the yard.

Even though I still couldn't spot the wren, suddenly I felt strangely grateful to it. In searching for it, I had discovered something else.

Maybe I wasn't in the Costa Rican jungle, but my backyard was still full of beauty and mystery and things to explore.

Maybe I could have an adventure right here in my own backyard.

"And here's a flashlight," Mom said, handing it to me. "Now, I'll leave the deck door unlocked, and if you get cold, you can just come back inside."

I nodded and added the flashlight to my big backpack of supplies, which included a tarp, a water bottle, and a guide to the constellations.

I also lugged a sleeping bag and my pillow.

Emily hung back but didn't take her eyes off me. We had hardly spoken during dinner. I was still mad at her, although in a private moment Mom had pulled me aside, saying, "Remember, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."

"What's that supposed to mean?" I asked.

"It means Emily looks up to you. It's a really big responsibility, being a big sister." I still wasn't sure what she was talking about, but I had nodded as if I understood, eager to get outside and begin my own adventure.

Now that it was really happening, I suddenly felt a bit nervous. I spread out my tarp, laid my pillow and sleeping bag on top of it, and climbed in. I lay back and looked up at the stars.

Hey, is that the Big Dipper?

I unzipped my backpack, pulled out my star guide, and flipped on the flashlight. Yes! The pattern shown in the book was a perfect match for the stars shining above me.

Aunt Hannah had told me that the earth's soil had once been part of a star, billions of years ago. That meant that I would be sleeping on stardust. It made me feel very small and insignificant, but also strangely excited to be part of something so vast—not just the wide, wonderful world, but the whole universe.

The next morning I woke up very early to a chorus of birdsong. A heavy layer of dew lay on my sleeping bag, but inside I was toasty warm. My pillow was damp, though, too. I could see why people preferred camping in tents or

campers. Still, it was thrilling to open my eyes and be outside already, looking up at the trees. I heard a noise—a squirrel was doing major gymnastics on the feeder, making it spin as he tried to get to a corncob. Angela was right—the squirrels really were cute. I wondered if Emily had seen them yet. She might be afraid of bugs, but she loves small furry animals.

I tiptoed inside. Nobody was up yet. I padded up to Emily's room and went in. She opened her eyes and looked up at me.

"Come on—I want to show you something," I told her, taking her hand. She slipped out of bed and followed me out to her little bedroom deck. I pointed down at the squirrel feeder. The squirrel was doing crazy ninja moves, jumping from cob to cob and making the feeder spin.

Emily watched for a few moments and then turned to me. "I think he needs more corn."

I squinted at the feeder. Now that she pointed it out, the corncobs did look sort of white and chewed over. "That's a very scientific observation, Emily. I think you're right." Suddenly I had an idea. Maybe I didn't have to work alone outside for six weeks. Maybe I could convince Emily to help me with the backyard. "Hey, Aunt Hannah left us a bag of corncobs for refills. You want to help refill the squirrel feeder?"

She nodded solemnly.

After helping Emily put new cobs on the feeder, I hung my damp sleeping bag and the tarp over the deck railing to dry. Emily was still standing near the feeder, calling the squirrel, who was scolding her from a tall tree, to come and try his new corn. So far she hadn't said one word about bugs. *Small steps,* I thought. ★

Meet the Author

Jane Kurtz

I spent my childhood in Ethiopia, a country in Africa. There, I spent a lot of time outdoors—where my father had a huge vegetable garden!

More Lanie stories can be found in Lanie and Lanie's Real Adventures, available in bookstores.
Lanie
Lanie's Real Adventures

Spring into Action

Try these activities with your doll—come rain or come shine!

Bright Blooms

Pick a **dandelion bouquet** for your doll. Slip the flowers into a tiny jar.

It's Showtime!

Put on a concert. Name a band and make her the **lead singer.** Dress her like a star!

Eat Out

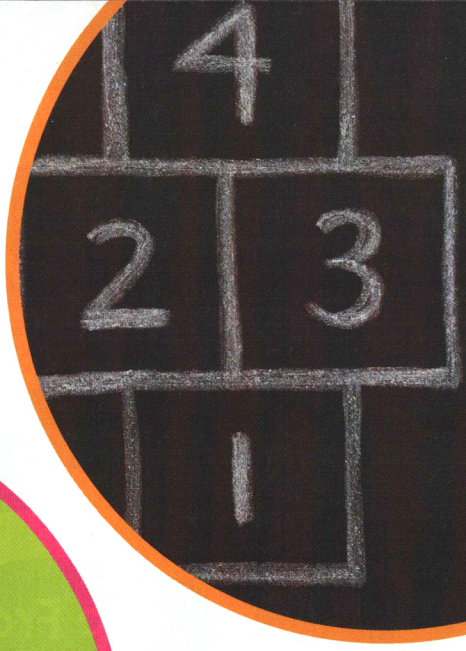
Picnic in the backyard together. Spread lunch out on a beach towel.

Pretty Cool

Keep her cool on warm spring days with a **paper fan.** Accordion-fold a sheet of pretty patterned paper.

Jump for Joy

Braid yarn to make her a **jump rope.**



Hop to It

Create a **hopscotch game** using a white crayon on black paper.

Good Sports

Roll a sock into a ball, then invite dolls over for a **soccer match.** Name your teams! ★

Sweet Sprouts

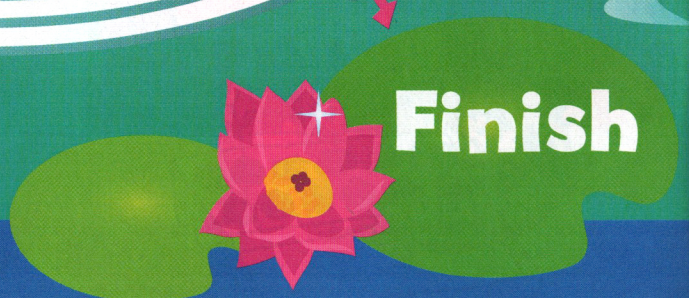
Help her **plant a garden.** Fill egg carton cups with soil, then stick in bean, flower, or herb seeds. Slip the carton onto a cookie sheet, and water when needed. Place in a sunny window.

Illustrations: Amanda Haley

Puddle Palooza

Leap Frog

Help this frog get from one lily pad to the other by hopping through the maze.



Cute Boots

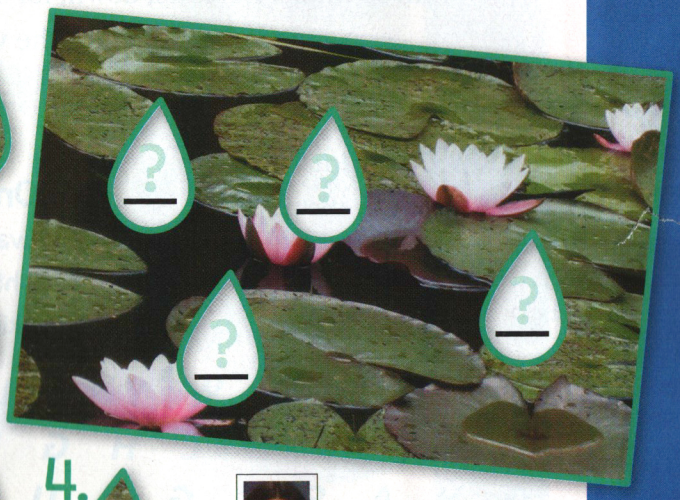
Look at the patterns on these rain boots. Choose which boot will come next from the choices below.

1.
2.
3.

Photo Fun

Jordan R. of California took this pretty picture. Can you match the raindrop shapes with where they belong?

1.
2.
3.
4.

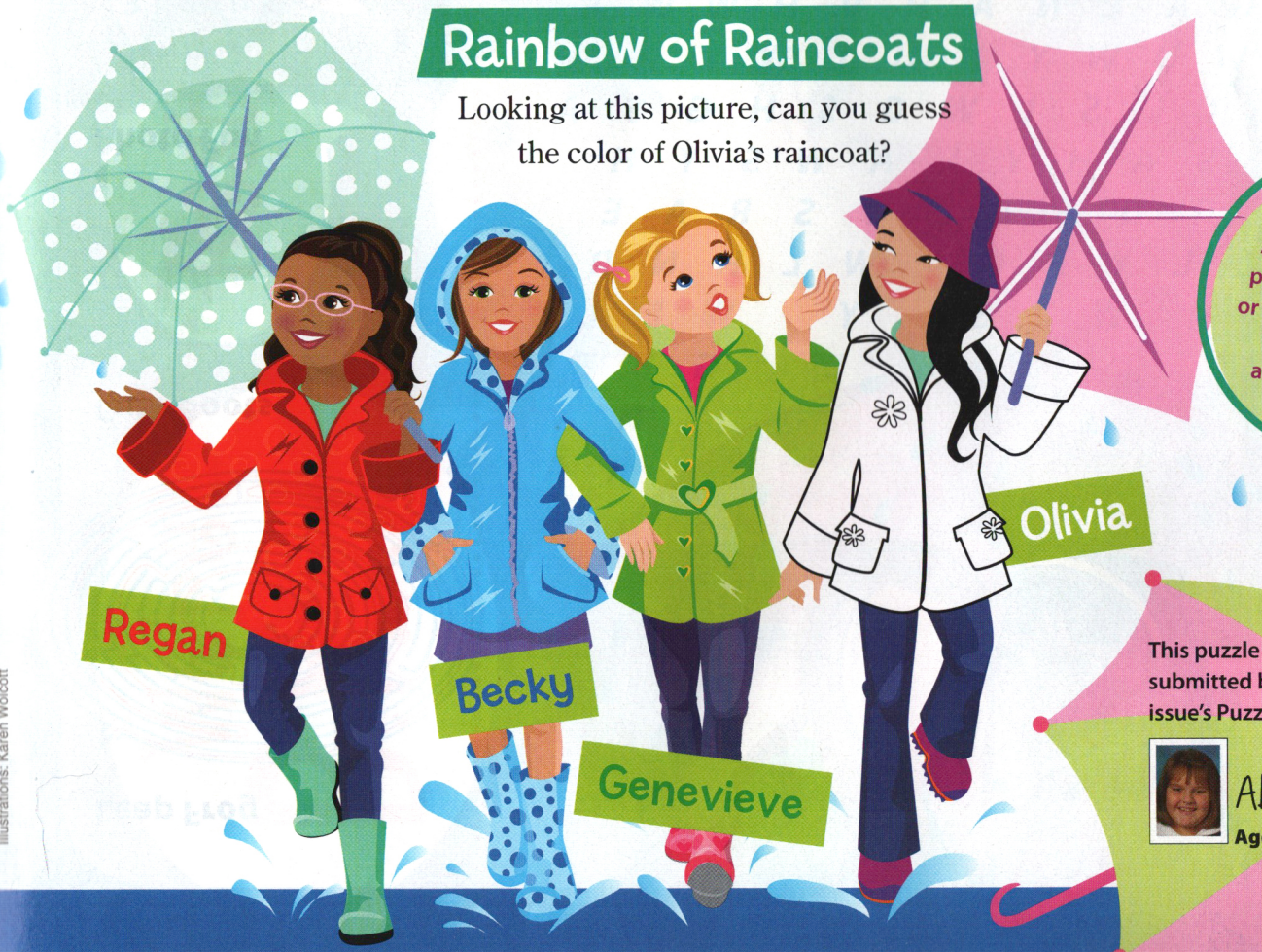


Jordan R.
Age 11, California

Send your fun photos to the address on page 7.

Rainbow of Raincoats

Looking at this picture, can you guess the color of Olivia's raincoat?



Illustrations: Karen Wolcott

Want to be an AG Puzzle Pal? Send puzzles, secret codes, or brainteasers created by **YOU** to the address on page 7.

This puzzle was submitted by this issue's Puzzle Pal.

Abby F.
Age 11, Florida

This issue's Buzzword is...

gullywasher

The word gullywasher is hidden in this rain shower three times. Look up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally for the words.

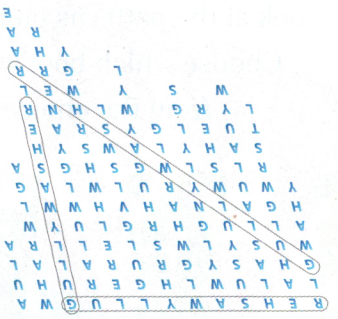
How to say it:
GUL-ee-waw-sher

What it means:
a downpour of heavy rain

One way to use it:
Savannah and Casey got caught in a gullywasher while walking home from school.

R E H S A W Y L L U G W A
L A L U W L H G E R U H U
G H A S Y G R U R A L A L
W U S Y L W S L E L L R A
A L L U G H R G L U Y W
H G A L N A H V H W W L
Y W U W Y R U L W L A G
R L S L W G S H G S A
S A H Y L A W S Y H
T U E L G Y S R A E
L Y R G W L H N R
W S Y W E L
L G R R
Y H A
R A
E

Answer Box



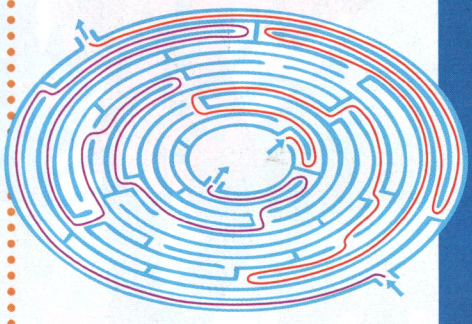
Buzzword

Rainbow of Raincoats

Olivia's raincoat is orange. Each girl's raincoat color starts with the same letter as her name.

Photo Fun

Cute Boots



Leap Frog

Posters Carefully cut along the dotted lines to remove your posters.

Photo: Image Source/Getty Images

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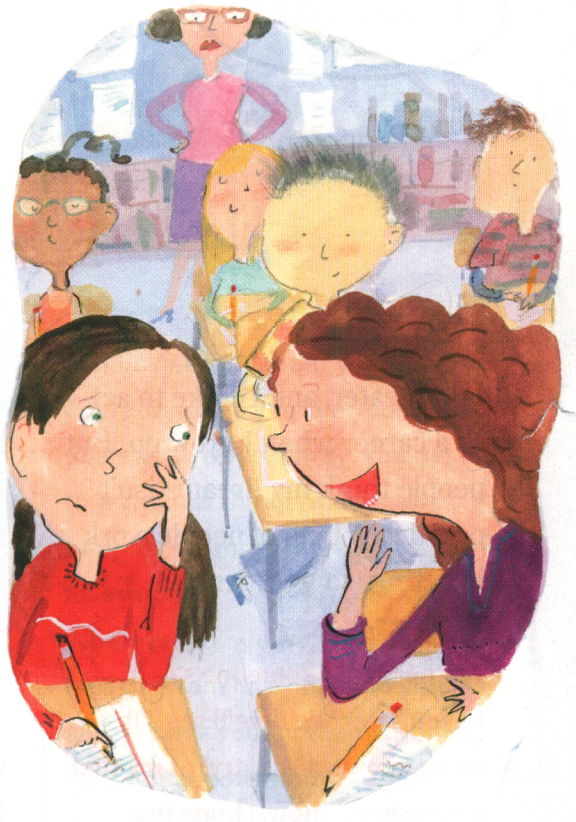
HELP!



Dear *American Girl,*

My friend sits next to me in school. All she does is talk. I ignore her because I don't want to get in trouble for talking, but I don't want her to think that I'm mad at her.

Friendly But Quiet

After class, clear things up with your friend by being honest. Say, "I'm not ignoring you because I'm mad! I need to concentrate in class, and I don't want either of us to get in trouble." Set up times to talk between classes, at recess, or after school. You can stay in touch and out of trouble, too.

Dear *American Girl,*

I've gotten to travel all over Europe. I like to talk about it, but that always feels to me like bragging. How can I know if I'm bragging or not?

Global Bragger?

Your travels are part of what makes you *you*. To remember your trips, make a scrapbook, or share your memories with your parents. If you start to feel as if you're bragging to your friends, watch their reactions closely. If they seem interested, go ahead and tell your story. If they seem bored—or worse, annoyed—then it's time to cut the travel talk.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

Girls in my grade are starting to wear makeup. I don't want to. But some people tease me for not wearing it, and my friends are telling me to try it.

Keeping it natural

Kudos to you for not wanting to do something just because everyone else is. Still, it's hard being singled out. So practice sticking up for yourself. Next time someone mentions makeup, shrug and say, "Hey, it's a free country, right?" Do your best to look bored—and not upset. People should move on if they see that they can't bother you.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

This is a strange problem: I'm *too* prepared. I do things way ahead of time, such as school assignments. But then I end up losing them! What do I do?

Too Prepared

Here's what to do: Take your finished assignments to school right away, even if you aren't handing them in. Put a brightly colored folder in your desk or locker and store your finished work in it, every time. That way, whenever your teacher calls for the assignment, you'll know right where it is. Problem solved.

★

Illustrations: Laura Cornell

MORE HELP!

Dear *American Girl,*

I do theater, and I'd like to act as a career when I grow up. But people think my dream "isn't practical." Lots of people work in acting, so why can't I?

actress

The next time someone says that to you, say, "Well, we'll see. I'll never know unless I try! At my first professional show, I hope that you'll lead the standing ovation." You get to choose your dreams. So keep doing shows, and talk to actors about how they succeed in a tough business. Break a leg!

★

Dear *American Girl,*

There is a girl in my class who has some health problems. Honestly, I wasn't always nice to her. I want to start over, but she says things like, "You're so mean to me!" How can I show her that I want to be friends?

Do-over Disaster

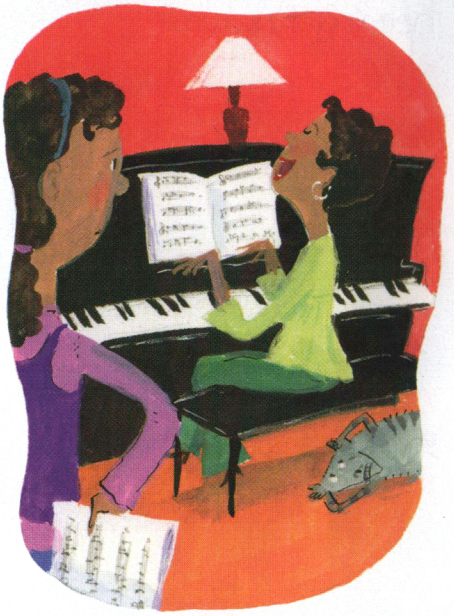
You didn't lose this girl's friendship in a day, so it's going to take a while to earn her trust. You'll have to do a lot to reassure her that you won't be mean again. If you get up to sharpen your pencil, offer to do hers, too. Invite her to play at recess, or sit down with her and ask her about her pets or classes that she seems to enjoy. Show kindness, and in time she might see that you're serious about a do-over.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

I like my piano lessons, so my mom started taking them, too. I feel mad because piano was *my* thing to do, and now she's doing it. I don't want her to quit something she likes, but I really don't want her to play, either.

pianoHELP!



Your mom has started a hobby that you also enjoy, but it doesn't mean that she's competing with you. Don't let your anger get in the way of doing what you enjoy. To bring back your inner harmony, find a way to make piano *yours* again. Get sheet music for your favorite songs, or try composing your own pieces. And look at it this way: Your playing inspired your mom to try a new thing, which must mean that you made it look like a lot of fun.

★

Dear *American Girl,*

I want to stop biting my nails, but I just can't! Any advice?

nail habit

This is a hard-to-break habit, but you can do it. Start by finding something new to keep your hands busy, such as lightly tapping each finger in sequence—pinky to thumb, thumb to pinky. Then, pick one "safe" nail that you promise yourself not to bite. Add a new "safe" nail each week, and soon all of your nails will be off-limits and you'll have this habit nailed.

★

even MORE HELP!

Dear *American Girl*,

I just got a really bad grade, and my dad is so mad. How can I show him that I can do better?

Bad grade

Show your dad that you're serious about improving. Always do your homework before TV or computer, and then go over your work with your dad every night. Explain to him the things you understand, and show him the spots where you're having trouble. Your dad just expects you to do your best, and as long as you're trying your hardest, he should be satisfied.

★

Dear *American Girl*,

My hair is dry and tangly. I've tried shampoos and conditioners that were supposed to make my hair soft and shiny, but they never worked. I end up having to wear a ponytail every day.

bad hair day EVERY DAY!

Your hair's dead ends can cause tangles, so first, get a good haircut. Then, try this shower strategy: Wash and condition your hair, and rinse it well—leftover shampoo

can cause dryness. Pat your hair dry with a towel instead of rubbing it. Use a comb—not a brush—to gently work out tangles. Later, use a soft-bristled brush on your dry hair each night before bed. That will reduce the amount of tangles in the morning and will distribute your hair's natural oils, making your hair less dry.

★

Dear *American Girl*,

We just moved away from a home I loved, and that makes me so sad. I tried making a scrapbook of memories, but I cry whenever I look at it. Will I ever feel better?

Missing Missouri

You will. Moving is a huge change, and it's normal to miss your old life and be nervous about your new one. For now, try to see your new place as an opportunity. You get to learn new things, meet new people, and maybe even grow to love another state. But remember: Wherever you go, you'll always be a girl from Missouri, and you'll always have your great memories. Your home goes along with you, no matter where your house is.

★

Advice from You

"Try not to be scared about sharing your feelings with your parents. They might understand things better than you think. I always feel better after talking to my parents—and I know they'll always keep my secrets."

Carmen H.
Age 9, New York

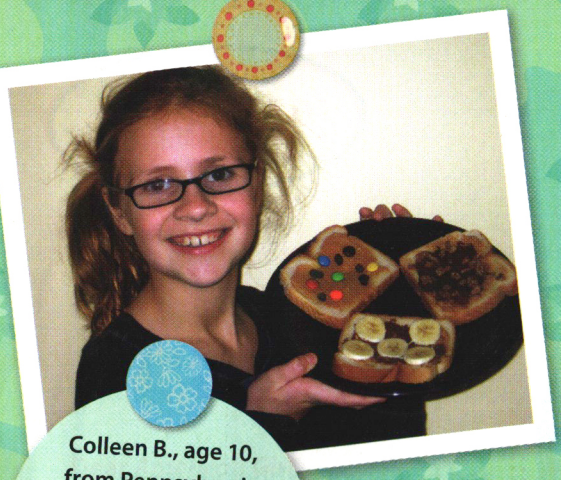
Need advice? Got advice? Write:

Help!

***American Girl* magazine**

8400 Fairway Place

Middleton, WI 53562



Colleen B., age 10, from Pennsylvania tested out sandwiches from "PB & Yay!" She says that the recipes were very creative, and good, too!

Grace B., age 11, Colorado

Abby K., age 13, South Carolina

Go to "Start the fun" at americangirlmagazine.com to see more cool flower drawings from readers like you.

Behind the Scenes

Rainy days bring bright rainbows. Happy spring from *American Girl!*

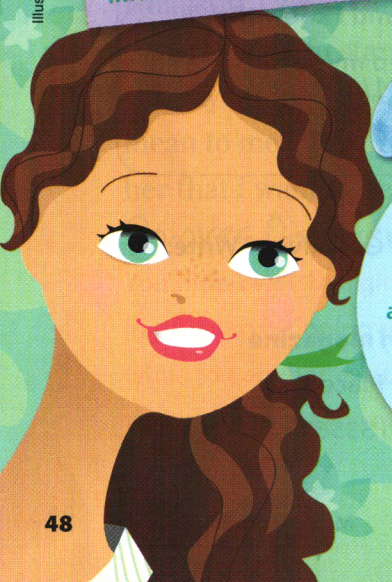
Do you like to draw? Go to americangirlmagazine.com and click on "Start the fun" to learn how to draw cute doodles.

We read so many amazing letters about your favorite party themes! Here are three more great themes:

Eco-Friendly Party
Cake Decorating Party
Garden Party

Do you have photos from your best parties? Send them to:

American Girl magazine
Reader Party Ideas
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



Want to throw one of the fun Reader Parties from this issue? Go to "Start the fun" at americangirlmagazine.com to find printable games and decorations!

On page 5, we told you how to turn your old magazines into a bouquet of flowers. Paige H., age 12, from Ohio turned her magazine into a gift bag and wrapping paper!

Illustration: Stacy Peterson

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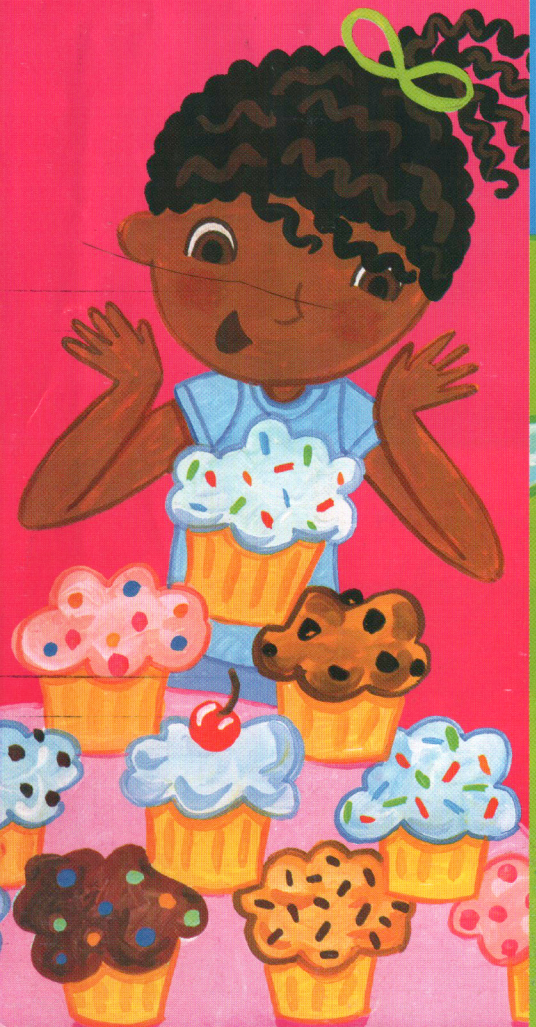
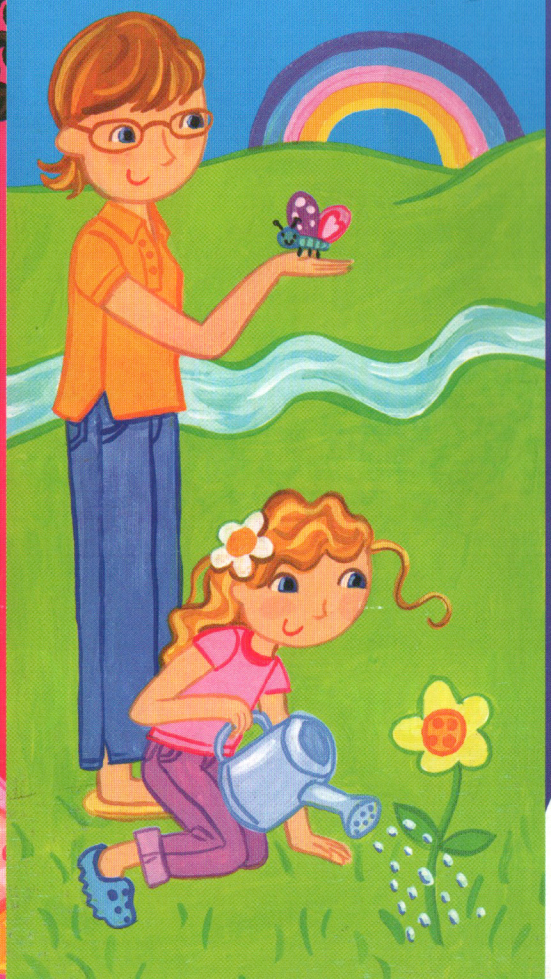
Illustrations: Carol Yoshizumi

Coming up in the May/June issue of *American Girl* magazine

Sweet Treats
Learn how to make the cutest cupcakes you've ever seen!



Mom, Dad, and Me
Find out how quality time with your parents can be even better.



Brilliant Bedrooms
Create colorful crafts that are sure to brighten up your bedroom.

Supergirls!
Our readers imagine themselves as superheroes who can do amazing things.

Friendship Secrets
Take a quiz to help you learn more about yourself—and your friends.

For more fun and games, go to americangirlmagazine.com and click on "Start the Fun!"

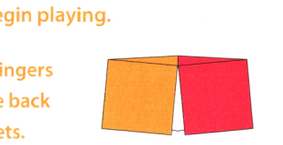
AG's Lunchtime Laughs

Put these in your lunch and play them with your friends while you eat. See what your favorite food says about your future or learn some fun activities to do with your friends at the lunch table. Enjoy!

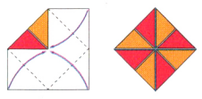
How to fold a Lunchtime Laugh

1. Cut out one square. Fold and unfold it in half diagonally in both directions to make an X. Place the square picture-side down.

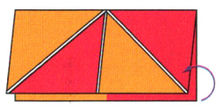
2. Fold each corner point into the center.



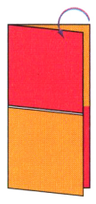
3. Flip so that flaps are facedown. Then fold each corner into the center.



4. Fold in half this way to crease.



5. Then unfold and fold in half the other way.

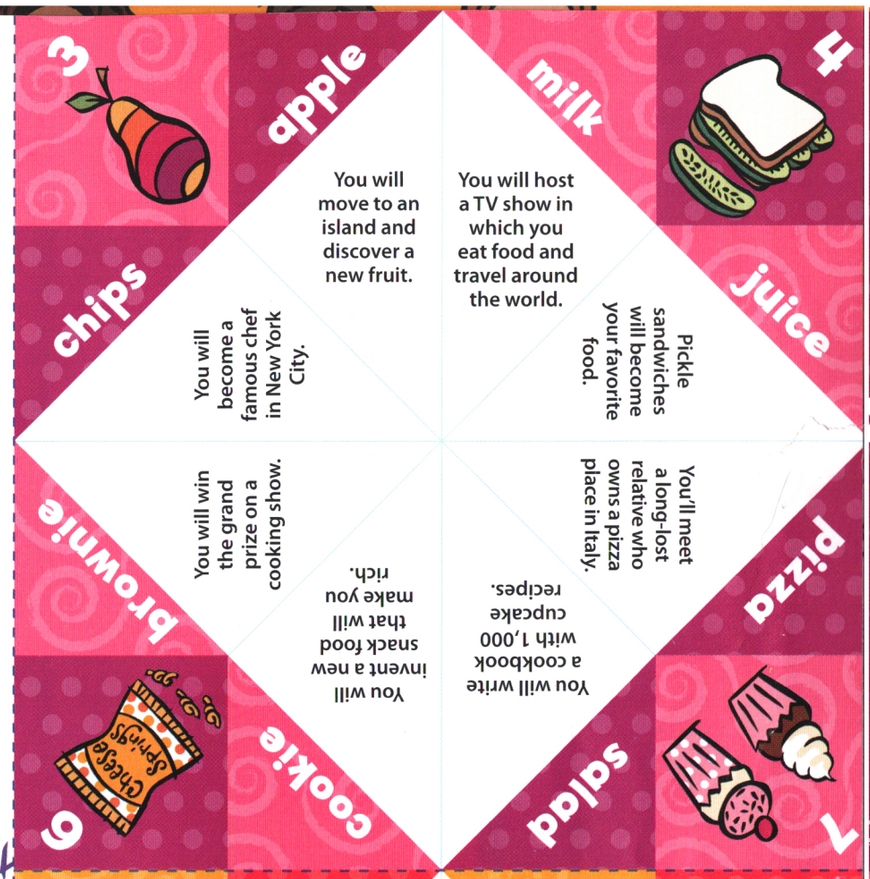


6. Stick both thumbs and pointer fingers into the four pockets. Push all the pockets to a point to begin playing.

Pointer fingers go in the back pockets.

Thumbs go in the front pockets.

See other side for how to play!


3
apple
You will move to an island and discover a new fruit.
4
milk
You will host a TV show in which you eat food and travel around the world.
chips
You will become a famous chef in New York City.
juice
Pickle sandwiches will become your favorite food.
brownie
You will win the grand prize on a cooking show.
pizza
You'll meet a long-lost relative who owns a pizza place in Italy.
9
cookie
You will invent a new snack food that will make you rich.
7
salad
You will write a cookbook with 1,000 cupcake recipes.
6
Yum!
Put potato chips in your sandwich. They add a nice crunch!
3
Good!
Invite someone new to sit at your lunch table.
Mmm!
Swap your dessert with someone today.
Great!
Eat lunch backward. Start with dessert and end with your drink.
Delish!
Speak only in a British accent at lunch today.
Sweet!
Play tic-tac-toe on a paper lunch bag.
7
More!
Going around the table, tell a story by having each person add one sentence.
4
Sour!
See who has the lunch with the least amount of trash.

Food Future

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Lunch Activities

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Food Personalities

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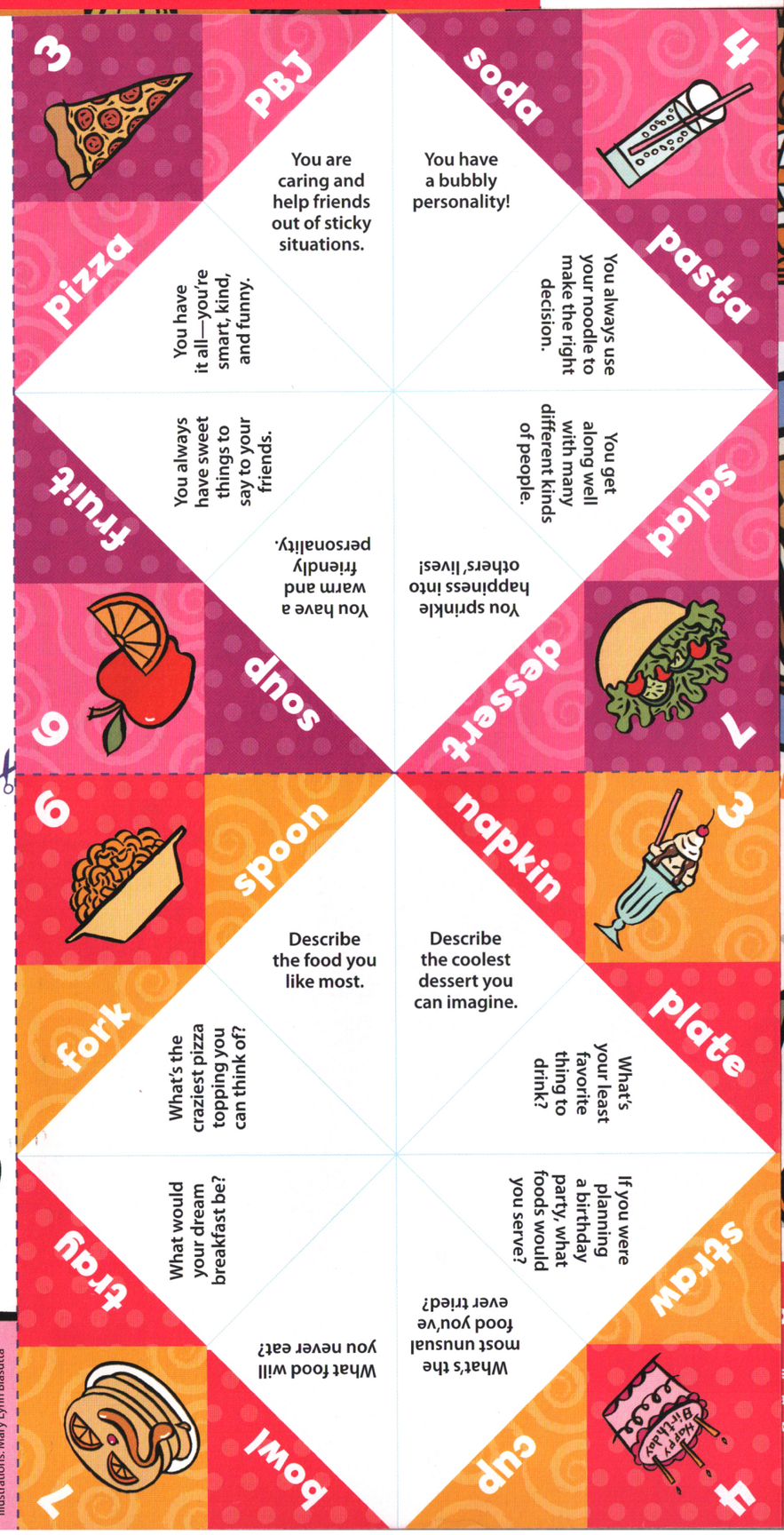
How to Play

1. Insert your fingers and thumbs under the numbered flaps on the Lunchtime Laugh.

2. Ask a friend to choose a number from one of the outside flaps, or choose one yourself. Open and close your fingers that number of times, moving your fingers front to back and then sideways.

3. Have your friend choose one of the words on the inside of the Lunchtime Laugh. Spell out the word, opening and closing your fingers with each letter.

4. Have your friend pick one of the words that shows. Open that flap and read the message beneath. ★



Illustrations: Mary Lynn Blasutta

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Make a door hanger!

Here's a quick craft project.

Gently punch out your free door hanger. Be sure to carefully cut out the circle along the dotted lines, too. Color in the design on one side. Stick the cut-out circle on top of the design with an adhesive foam dot or a piece of tape. Decorate however you'd like—be creative! Then hang it on your doorknob.

TIP: You can add sparkles or stickers to your door hanger from American Girl Crafts™. *Embellishments sold separately.*

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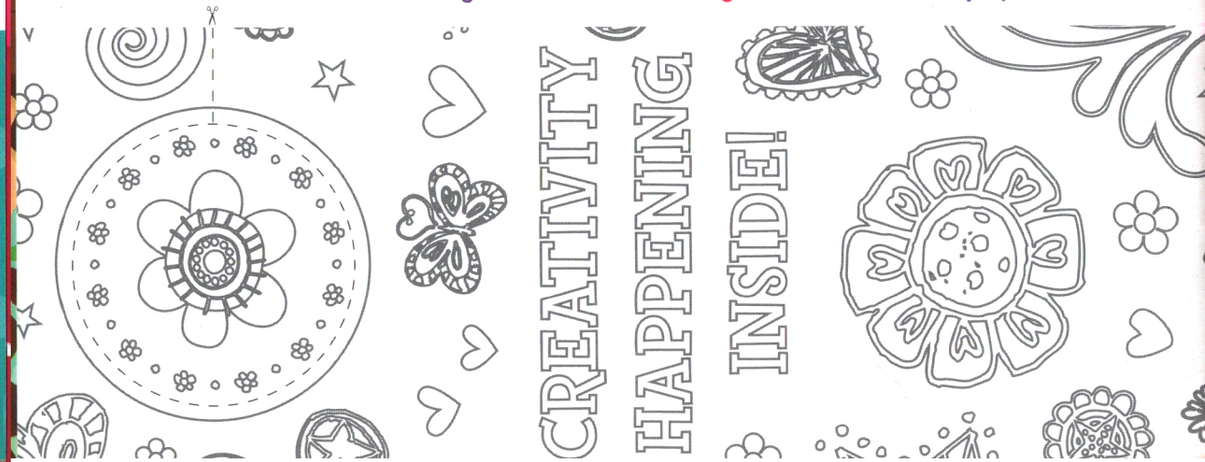

Free Board Game Inside! 2 Cute Posters You'll Love
American Girl
13 green holiday crafts to create
Take a manners quiz
Make sweet little animals
Plus! Girls' best friendship stories
11 Pop-Out Butterflies 2 Animal Posters You'll Love
PLUS! See the winners of our kick-off-to contest

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8 Mini Puppy Posters! Enter a Silly Hairdo Contest
American Girl
15 fun ideas for a slumber party
See if you can solve a mystery!
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